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Watkins prevails against Army

Appeals Court decision in favor of openly gay sergeant is called legally narrow, but politically broad

By Jennie McKnight

SAN FRANCISCO — Openly gay Army Sgt. Perry Watkins, who was discharged from the service in 1981 for homosexuality, won the latest round in his nine-year battle with the Army. On May 5, the 11-member U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit ordered the Army to reinstate Watkins. The court's decision is so narrow, however, that it will have little direct impact on the Army's policy of excluding gay men and lesbians from service simply because of their sexual orientation.

The court ruled that the 1981 regulation that requires the Army to discharge all gay men and lesbians regardless of the length or quality of their military service could not be applied to Watkins, since the Army knew of Watkins' homosexuality when he enlisted in 1967, and it allowed him to re-enlist three times between 1967 and 1981.

Lesbian and gay rights advocates expressed satisfaction that the court ruled in favor of Watkins, although many had hoped the appeals panel would uphold an earlier ruling in the case that found the exclusionary policy unconstitutional because it discriminates against gay men and lesbians.

Sue Hyde, director of the Privacy Project at the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force

bians and gay men who are rejected from the military solely on the basis of their being gay."

Despite their disappointment at the narrowness of the court's decision, some lesbian/gay legal observers said that the case does, in fact, have broader implications in the battle against homophobic military policy.

"Although the court did not reach the broader issue [of the constitutionality of the anti-gay policy], it did specifically rule that reinstating this openly gay soldier would have no harmful effect on the military mission. That ruling completely undercuts the Pentagon's position that homosexuality is incompatible with military service," said Nan Hunter, director of the Lesbian and Gay Rights Project of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). The ACLU has represented Watkins since the case was brought against the Army in 1981.

Hunter called the decision "a complete victory for Perry Watkins," and "a total repudiation of the rationale for the Army's exclusionary policy."

William Rubenstein, staff counsel at the ACLU's Lesbian and Gay Rights Project, amplified on the significance of this aspect of the case. He said the court found Watkins to be a highly "respected and trusted" soldier whose military service "greatly benefitted the Army and therefore the country."

In doing so, the court rejected the argument the military always makes when its exclusionary policy is challenged: that gay soldiers have a detrimental effect on other soldiers and that they undermine the morale and discipline of the armed forces. Rubenstein said the ruling undercuts this defense in future cases that challenge the policy.

Kathy Gilberd of the Military Law Task Force of the National Lawyers Guild told *GCN* that, "Although the Watkins decision is narrow legally, politically it's an incredible step forward. It's a real victory because it is symbolic of the court's willingness to realize that [the lesbians and gay men excluded by the policy] are real human beings and some of the best soldiers around."

To the Supreme Court?

If the Army refuses to accept the decision of the Ninth Circuit, it must appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court. The lawyer representing the Army in the Watkins case was unavailable for comment and a spokesperson for the Public Affairs office at the Department of Defense did not return *GCN*'s calls before presstime.

Watkins told *GCN* that he would wait to see what the Army does before making a decision about re-enlisting. He said he would go back to the Army "if it's the only way I can get my retirement," but that the

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Patsy Lynch

Watkins speaking at Leonard Matlovich's funeral and a member of the recently-formed Lesbian and Gay Military Freedom Project, told *GCN*, "Perry's victory in the Ninth Circuit is a great victory for Perry, but... his case doesn't have any carry-over impact to all the other lesbian and gay service members in the country. Ironically, while the Ninth Circuit recognized that Perry had made a great contribution to his branch of the service and the country, they failed to recognize that Perry is not unique. His case is similar to those of thousands of other les-



Victory for Gay Sergeant

BY PAUL FINE

Gay and lesbian students slam ROTC

Harvard tries to reinstate ROTC on the university's campus, but gay and lesbian activists say no

By Brian Shannon

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — Enraged over the military's persecution of lesbians and gay men, student activists at Harvard persuaded their Undergraduate Council (UC) to overturn its April 23 decision to invite the Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) back to the campus. ROTC was banished from the campus in 1969 when students protested Harvard's role in the Vietnam War. Students took control of a university building and organized a strike which entirely shut down the university and led to the removal of ROTC. Twenty years later, the unifying issue which is again galvanizing hundreds of angry students against ROTC seems to be gay rights.

The UC members who sought the reinstatement of ROTC said they wanted to make it more convenient for Harvard students to be members of ROTC. One hundred fifty Harvard students currently travel to MIT in order to participate in the program. However, despite the fact that both Harvard and the UC have policies prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, the pro-ROTC students did not anticipate the avalanche of opposition which erupted over the issue of discrimination.

Before the UC reversed itself, Joe Cice, co-chair of the Bisexual, Gay and Lesbian Students Association, told *GCN*, "You cannot compromise civil rights for convenience. Not every institution has anti-discrimination rules for bisexual, lesbian and gay people. That's what makes it all the more crucial for Harvard to summon the courage to give the military a black eye on this issue. I know gay people in ROTC. They're hiding and being tormented. Exemplary officers in the Marines are now sitting in jail simply because they're lesbians. It's barbaric, and it won't be tolerated."

Students opposed ROTC for different reasons. Some lambasted what they consider the worldwide violation of human rights

by the military. Others said that ROTC's hierarchy and command structure were "antithetical" to the "open-minded" environment necessary for a liberal arts education. Yet the anti-discrimination issue clearly united the activists. In fact, even two deans and one assistant dean supported the protesters on that point. Notably, Harvard President Derek Bok was quoted in *The Harvard Crimson* as saying he would endorse ROTC should the faculty favor its return.

The UC overwhelmingly passed the original invitation, after a vitriolic debate in which one UC member accused the activists of being "offensive" and "unpatriotic." But after a week of lobbying and activism, the repeal nullified the decision, passing by a 43-39 vote. Several students called the margin "harrowing."

Some ROTC supporters asserted that Harvard students in ROTC could help eradicate bigotry from the military. Kurt Wheeler, a member of the naval ROTC, said, "We are saying in effect, 'Help us to help you solve this problem.' People have equated [ROTC] with homophobia. Supporting ROTC does not make you homophobic."

But activist Deepak Bhargava responded, "It's more likely the ROTC will change Harvard [than that Harvard students in ROTC will be able to change ROTC from within]." Using another anti-ROTC argument, Robert Mahnke, co-sponsor of the repeal resolution, said, "Ask yourself if ROTC would be accepted if it discriminated explicitly against Jews or Blacks."

After the repeal passed, the UC tried to vote on inviting ROTC back to campus, provided that the program eliminate its discriminatory practices. Activist Deborah Cohen interrupted the vote, demanding more debate on the issue. The meeting then

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Writer George Whitmore dies of AIDS

By Michael Bronski

NEW YORK — George Whitmore, novelist, poet, playwright, and journalist, died April 19 of AIDS, at New York University Medical Center. He was 43 years old.

Whitmore was born in Denver in 1946. He attended Bennington College. During the Vietnam War, Whitmore filed for conscientious objector status. In place of military service, he worked as the coordinator of Planned Parenthood's national abortion referral unit in New York. After his tenure there, Whitmore decided to stay in Manhattan. He continued public service work at the Citizens Housing and Planning Council, a non-profit organization which helped facilitate affordable and low-income housing.

It was in the mid '70s that Whitmore began making a name for himself as a writer. During that period, there was an explosion of literature written by gay men. Whitmore was part of an important group of writers that included Robert Ferro, Michael Grumley, Felice Picano, Edmund White, Christopher Cox and Andrew Holleran. This group met informally for several years. They called themselves the Violet Quill Club and discussed the problems of writing autobiographical fiction.



Charles Reilly

Whitmore's first success was a play called *The Caseworker*, which was produced by Playwright Horizons in 1976. *Flight/Legacy* followed in 1979, and *The Rights* was produced by the gay theater company, The Glines, in 1980. During this time, Whitmore began writing for the new gay male magazine *Christopher Street*. *Christopher Street* showcased new work by gay male writers at a time when the mainstream press did not review or acknowledge gay literature.

It was in *Christopher Street* that Whitmore published excerpts from a novel which would eventually be published in 1980 as *The Confessions of Danny Slocum*. Clearly a product of the Violet Quill Club meetings,

Rest stop murder stumps cops

By Jennie McKnight

WEYMOUTH, Mass. — The late-night slaying of a Canton man, whose body was found at a rest stop known to be a cruising area for gay men, continues to baffle investigators. While the straight and gay press speculate about whether the April 30 murder of Jerry Brancaccio was an anti-gay hate crime, spokespersons for the police and prosecutor's offices are not commenting specifically on this aspect of the case.

Police discovered Brancaccio, 52, at about 3 a.m. April 30 approximately 20 yards away from his parked car in a rest area off Route 3. He had been shot in the cheek and behind the ear at close range. Brancaccio's wallet and watch were on his body, so investigators say they have ruled out robbery as a motive for the crime.

"We're checking out many leads, but we're running up against a few stone walls," said Weymouth police Capt. Rod Rumble. When asked whether police were considering the murder as possibly motivated by homophobia, Rumble said "That is certainly one of the aspects we're looking into."

"We don't know what he [Brancaccio] was doing down there [at the rest stop]," said Rumble. "It could be that he was just going in there to urinate, but that doesn't

Danny Slocum was a brave step in gay male fiction. While others were publishing novels about New York's gay nightlife — Holleran's *Dancer From The Dance* being the most notable — *Danny Slocum* was about a gay man attempting to deal with sexual dysfunction. Whitmore's novel was honest; it didn't avoid tangled issues such as sexual desire and romantic attachment. *Danny Slocum* brought some reality to a world which was becoming increasingly portrayed as nothing but disco, boffing and poppers.

During the mid '80s, Whitmore kept a low profile within the literary scene. He occasionally published articles in *Christopher Street* and *The New York Native*, and his work appeared in several anthologies, including: *A True Likeness*, *Aphrodisiac*, and *The Christopher Street Reader*. In 1987 he published a piece in the *New York Times Magazine* called "Reaching Out to Someone with AIDS," which profiled the lives of several people living with AIDS. The article became the basis for the non-fiction work *Someone Was Here: Profiles in the AIDS Epidemic*, which was published in early 1988. The material in *Someone Was Here* was supplemented by another piece he wrote for the *Times* called "Bearing Witness." "Bearing Witness" detailed Whitmore's own AIDS diagnosis and his feelings about how being a gay writer impacted on his emotional and psychic relationship to the disease. "I was trying to bargain with AIDS," he wrote. "If I wrote about it, maybe I wouldn't get it. But AIDS didn't keep its part of the bargain."

The publication of the two *New York Times* pieces and *Someone Was Here* somewhat overshadowed Whitmore's last novel, *Nebraska*, published in late 1987. *Nebraska* tells the story of a young gay boy growing up on a small farm in the Midwest, and his efforts to understand his family and make sense of his life. Beautifully written and deeply moving, *Nebraska* will probably be Whitmore's most lasting contribution to gay fiction.

After he was diagnosed Whitmore brought a suit against Northern Dispensary, a Greenwich Village dental clinic, for refusing to treat him because he was a person with AIDS. The clinic was eventually found guilty and fined \$47,000 by the city's Human Rights Commission. Since then, it has been under a great deal of financial pressure. The clinic announced several weeks ago that it would close and reopen as a nursing home for PWAs.

Whitmore was also a member of the Gay Academic Union and the Gay Men's Health Crisis. He is survived by his lover of many years, Michael Canter, as well as by his mother and sister. □ filed from Boston

mean he's gay or he's a bad guy or anything."

Michael McGorty, a spokesperson for the Norfolk County District Attorney's office, which is investigating the case in conjunction with the police, would only say the Brancaccio case "is an ongoing murder investigation."

According to Rumble, members of Brancaccio's family told police that Brancaccio often had trouble sleeping and would take late-night drives. Rumble said that since there is "nothing else [apart from the location of the murder] that would lead us to think it was an anti-gay thing or a hate thing," police are reluctant to say the murdered man may have been at the rest stop to have gay sex.

The *Boston Globe*'s coverage of the incident describes Brancaccio as "a union carpenter and the father of four children" who "did not fit the profile of one who might be expected to be brutally murdered." The May 2 article mentioned that the rest stop is "well known as a gay cruising spot," and it also included a quote from one of Brancaccio's neighbors who described him as "a good family man." □



Terry Sutton at a 1988 ACT UP/SF rally

Rick Gerharter

Remembering Terry Sutton

AIDS activist dies at 33

By Carolyn Helmke

SAN FRANCISCO — Earlier this spring, if you called Terry Sutton and he wasn't home, you probably would have heard these words on his answering machine:

When the history of this epidemic is told, let it be known that gay men, lesbians, and women were our warriors; that we took care of our sick and we fought a government that seemed not to care. And we did it with integrity, compassion, and love. Be well everyone, I love you.

Terry, one of the fiercest and most dedicated warriors in the battle against AIDS, died April 11 at the age of 33, at Kaiser Hospital in San Francisco.

Two weeks after Terry's death, friends and political allies from the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power (ACT UP) and Stop AIDS Now or Else staged a demonstration commemorating his life, the life of Jose Fernandez, another ACT UP activist, and the thousands of other people who have died of AIDS in this country and all over the world.

But the cadre of 300 protesters were as angry as they were sad. They demanded to know "Who killed Terry Sutton?" With raised fists and pointed fingers, they blamed the bureaucracy of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the profit-oriented pharmaceutical company Astra, which denied to Terry the drug that might have saved his life, Foscarnet.

Terry had CMV Retinitis, an opportunistic infection that can eventually cause blindness. For months he organized, lobbied, and demanded access to Foscarnet, a treatment he had researched extensively. Terry believed that he should have the right to treat his body with whatever he felt would improve his health.

Terry had been receiving daily infusions of DHPG, the only drug available to people with CMV retinitis, outside of drug protocols. In fact, when the FDA finally approved DHPG treatment for Investigational New Drug (IND) status, it was largely due to

meetings Terry conducted with Anthony Fauci, head of the National Institute for Contagious and Infectious Diseases, in which he passionately challenged the FDA's foot dragging in the approval of new drugs.

But the DHPG was ravaging Terry's blood cells, and he wanted Foscarnet. Existing protocols for Foscarnet exclude people who are not considered to have "failed DHPG," and failing, for Terry, meant death.

Thus, the crowds who gathered for Terry's funeral march concluded that it was the FDA's addiction to red tape and Astra's absolute desire for profits that killed Terry Sutton.

Terry would have been proud. Born in Iowa and schooled in Nebraska, Terry moved to San Francisco in 1982. He worked as a special education teacher, helping emotionally disturbed youth.

He served as one of the first volunteers at the Shanti Project, and became a volunteer in the Kaiser Hospital AIDS ward in 1983. A pioneer in the AIDS activist movement, Terry was one of the founders of the AIDS Action Pledge, which later became ACT UP/San Francisco. Within ACT UP, Terry helped found the People with Immune System Disorders (PISD) caucus.

From the beginning, Terry stressed the importance of treatment issues and worked to empower PWAs so they could challenge the inhumane policies of the government. Terry made gaining access to treatments his job. He worked overtime, pushing drug companies and the FDA to release promising new drugs and make them available to people with AIDS.

Terry was a key organizer in an action at Burroughs-Wellcome, manufacturer of AZT. The action pushed the company to access the drug to all PWAs, and demanded that they stop profiteering off of the AIDS epidemic. Last October, Terry was arrested with the national PISD affinity group when

Continued on page 10

COMMUNITY VOICES

Join the GCN Challenge!

Only 17 days left!!!

\$24,733

With the support of our readers, *GCN* is on its way to meeting its \$50,000 fundraising goal.

Dollar for dollar, every donation received by May 31 will be matched by a small group of anonymous donors, until we reach the grand total of \$50,000. So far, our readers have contributed \$12,366.50, which is worth \$24,733 to *GCN* because of our matching challenge.

With a new infusion of cash, *GCN* hopes to bring more pages of a better *GCN* to more readers in more cities and towns across the United States, primarily through a major promotional subscription campaign.

Now more than ever is the time to contribute to *GCN*. Please send your donations to *GCN*, 62 Berkeley Street, Boston, MA 02116. Checks made out to Bromfield Street Educational Foundation or *GCN* are tax deductible.

"Community Voices" and "Speaking Out" are parts of our efforts to provide a true forum of opinion for the community. We encourage you to send your ideas, feelings and comments to us, and to respond to ideas expressed in this space. We welcome all contributions except personal attacks. Copies of letters and "Speaking Out" contributions sent elsewhere are printed on a space-available basis. *GCN* reserves the right to edit letters and "Speaking Out" contributions for length and clarity, in consultation with the author. The opinions expressed are those of the author and are not intended to represent the views of the *GCN* membership.

Letter and "Speaking Out" contributions must be TYPED and DOUBLE-SPACED. Letters can be NO LONGER THAN TWO PAGES. "Speaking Out" contributions can be NO LONGER THAN FOUR PAGES. Send to: Community Voices or Speaking Out, *GCN*, 62 Berkeley Street, Boston, MA 02116.

Rally for drug treatment on demand

GCN received a copy of this letter sent to various community groups. As of early May, the March is sponsored by United Community Advocacy Program, Drop A Dime, Metro Boston Alive, Latino Health Network, Church of the United Community, Boston City Hospital AIDS Clinic, H.O.P.E., (Hispanic Office of Planning and Evaluation), St. Philip Parish/Warwick House, First, Inc., Women's AIDS Risk Network, Project Trust, AIDS Action Committee, Boston AIDS Consortium, ADAA Alcohol/Drug Abuse Assoc.]

Dear Friends:
We are at war. In Boston and in all of Massachusetts, the effects of drug use threaten all of us — our neighbors, our families and our children. As a society, our health and future is in jeopardy, frighteningly so.

We have an opportunity to fight back. On Wednesday, May 17, there will be a march and rally to call for drug treatments on demand. This is our chance to make a powerful statement to Gov. Dukakis, to Mayor Flynn, to state legislators and to the citizens of the Commonwealth.

We all need to join with the other concerned members of our communities, including recovering addicts and their loved ones, drug treatment providers and those on treatment waiting lists, in this important demonstration.

Gay Community News is produced by a collective dedicated to providing coverage of events and news in the interest of gay and lesbian liberation. The collective consists of a paid staff of ten, a general membership of volunteers, and a board of directors elected by the membership.

Opinions reflected in "editorials" represent the views of the paid staff collective. Signed letters and columns represent the views and opinions of the authors only. We encourage all readers to send us comments, criticism, and information, and to volunteer and become members.

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—Read Weaver
Utne Reader

"The only nationally circulating weekly for lesbians and gay men, **GCN** provides an important forum for debate on...the gay liberation movement. Read by all activists in the movement,... **GCN** is one...paper where lesbians and gay men have worked together productively. It is the newspaper of record for the lesbian and gay movement."

—Dan Tsang
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Sincerely,
Larry Kessler
Executive Director
AIDS Action Committee

Without Borders: anarchists seek prisoners' art & writing

Dear GCN:

This summer people from all over the world are coming to San Francisco, July 20-25, to the Without Borders Anarchist Convention. 'Without Borders' means a lack of barriers and confining ideologies that destroy our global community.

We want you prisoners to be there with your artwork and your writing, which will be displayed on a very large wall mural/collage during the conference. We want to show that despite your incarceration, your spirit is still out among us. Send us your stories, your poetry, your cartoons, and your paintings. Be Creative! Get whole groups of you to work together on something if you like.

We want the participation of everyone who feels, as we do, that our future depends not on the state, but on our groupings that we freely make with each other. Spread the word! Mail your work to: Without Borders, 1369 Haight St., San Francisco, CA 94117.

In Solidarity,

Without Borders Anarchist Conference

It's called 'Divide & Rule'

Dear GCN:

When I arrived here at Milan I was placed in a room with a Mexican man who spoke little or no English. After about a week he heard rumors that I had AIDS and I was told to get out. So I did, for health purposes.

Then... I was placed with a Puerto Rican man who also 3 days later told me to get out or else. So I did. You understand.

Then I was placed with a Cuban inmate who spoke no English. He 'heard the rumor' that I had AIDS also. And he was not happy either about the police waking me up at 2am for my AZT. He asked me to get out because I disturbed his sleep. I was tired and told him to talk to his counselor and he attacked me.

Well, we were both charged with fighting and both just received 30 days in isolation and I've been written up for yet another transfer to another prison.

They could put me in a cell by myself or with someone who I could talk to, or who just plain didn't mind.

[Pris. Proj. note: Jim has been successfully publishing a newsletter for PWAs/PWARCs/HIVs in prison for several months now, in spite of the many transfers ('bus therapy') the feds have put him through, to disconnect him from family, friends and the PWAs he has been organizing. Being a federal prisoner, he can't receive mail from other prisoners. Support for his efforts can be sent c/o Byron Merton, 1407 E. Brady, No.520, Milwaukee, WI 53202.]

Life goes on, eh?
Jim Magner
38670-019
Box 1000-D
Milan, MI 48160

Dykecycles built for two

Dear GCN:

Enclosed is a tune in honor of Gay/Lesbian Pride.

Lesbi More Than Friends
Lesbi Lesbi
Lesbi much more than friends
About each other, we're crazy
So why otherwise pretend?

We don't have to be monogamous
Together we'll be more autonomous!
So let's take a ride
To Gay/Lesbian Pride
On a dykecycle built,
a dykecycle built
a dykecycle built for two!

Lyrics: Ann Carol Abrams © 1987

Sincerely,
Ann Abrams
Brookline, Mass.

Creating a strong and united lesbian and gay coalition movement

Part 2 of 2

By Mickey Wheatley

In part 1, [GCN, May 7-13], I described the historical development of the contemporary lesbian and gay political landscape. I argued that the community is divided into three currents, the assimilationist, the separatist and the militant, and that these currents, each valuable in their own ways, and each with particular weaknesses, must stop dishing each other and learn to work together to fight the greater enemy — heterosexist, sexist, anti-sex oppression that continues to destroy us through AIDS, violence, suicide and wasted lives. In this part, I detail each current's strengths and weaknesses, and suggest approaches for collaboration. I believe that together we create a powerful alliance that can dare to make a difference.

Assimilationists attack the separatists and the militants, arguing that they are counterproductive to gaining widespread acceptance. Assimilationists argue that many separatists present themselves as too extravagant, too exaggerated to be accepted. Hence, Gay Pride parades, controlled in most cities by assimilationists, often downplay participation by butch dykes, drag queens, and controversial groups like NAMBLA [North American Man Boy Love Association].

The motivation behind these restrictions is to show a hostile world that we are not aliens, but human beings, deserving of the same love and support as everybody else. The assimilationist approach recognizes that some lesbian and gay people can pass as heterosexuals, that the most heterosexual-acting in our community are the least likely to be perceived as lesbian or gay, and that therefore heterosexuals will assume that only the more flamboyant members of our community are lesbian or gay. The assimilationists are trying to bring a balance to the outside misperception of our community.

This assimilationist work is important and should continue. We do have a full spectrum of politics and personality types in our community, and our diversity should be made clear to the media world view. Continuing to educate those of us most able to "pass" about the importance of coming out is the most crucial work of the assimilationists. Continuing to educate courts, legislatures and the rest of heterosexual culture about our lives and issues is also crucial, because we cannot escape state oppression, whether it takes the form of separating us from our children or lovers, prohibiting the full expression of our sexuality, or allowing us to continue to grow sick and die.

Yet the time has come for assimilationists to grow tolerant of the more radical or "eccentric" fringe of our community, just as it asks the heterosexual culture to grow tolerant of them. It is not a responsible analysis for assimilationists to ask the rest of us to cultivate a more heterosexual or mainstream personal style or politics, just as assimilationists refuse to become heterosexual. First, assimilationists should recognize that even when we put on a three-piece suit, we are still largely despised because we represent a major threat to patriarchal culture. Second, our politics and personalities are as central to us as our sexual orientation, and should be celebrated, not oppressed. We cannot win our liberation by becoming our oppressors, but rather by becoming most fully and openly ourselves. Let's challenge our oppressors and each other to embrace differences of sexual orientation and lifestyle.

The time has also come for assimilationists to recognize the importance of a militant response to our oppression. It does not help our cause to dish our more militant sisters and brothers for not trying to get along with the powers that be. The assimilationists have been trying the polite approach for 20 years. It is increasingly clear that, alone, that approach is inadequate to create a significant change in the status quo, a change becoming more imperative with each passing day.

The separatists have also attacked the other currents. Separatists argue that the assimilationists and the new militants fail to discover their true identity. The separatist critique of the assimilationist and the militant currents is legitimate. Both have focused their political strategies narrowly, and are often at odds with a long-term agenda for significant social change. Separatists are too quick, however, to write off these currents as at best reactionary, and at worst, fascist. The militant current is very young historically, and is being organized for the most part by young people. This current has not yet had a time to mature into a self-reflective force. The separatists should work with this budding force to help shape it for the tense and trying years that lie ahead, fully understanding that the action-oriented militants may often prefer not to listen.

Separatists and assimilationists can also work together. As assimilationists go about the task of trying to convince courts and legislatures to grant us rights in law, separatists can help assure that the concerns of all members of our diverse community are being addressed by the assimilationists when they purport to speak for us. Separatists should recognize that obtaining civil rights, while not the end of our liberation, represents an important foundation for protecting us as we struggle for more significant change. Separatists should celebrate the assimilationist focus on this work.

Finally, the militants accuse the older, more established separatist and assimilationist currents of failing to overcome oppression, and therefore being wholly ineffective. The militants are correct in their analysis that the other approaches alone cannot create significant social change. The militants have proven that significant gains are more readily achievable when the pressure of direct and visible action is applied against the state.

However, the militants have been too harsh in their assessment of the other currents, failing to see their strengths and gains, and thereby failing to learn some important organizing lessons. This naive over-reaction to the failures of the older groups is understandable as the new groups assert their own tactics and independence. However, this intolerance of the importance of other ways of working is destructive to the long-range goals of building strong and united coalitions. It also inhibits the new current by isolating it from legitimate criticism of some of its tactics, or the narrowness of its concerns. Militants must be open to constructive criticism from other parts of the lesbian and gay, and other progressive communities.

Militant lesbians and gays can learn from separatists about a more expansive and reflective vision for our collective future that sees beyond the immediate devastation wrought by AIDS. At the same time, we can learn more sophistication in our strategies that more explicitly includes the assimilationists in their role as mediators with the state. Militants can work with assimilationists to create a volatile political climate that the assimilationists can use to help secure our basic civil rights.

If we can overcome the mistrust that we have of each other, we can create a force whose emanations will be felt throughout the world and for decades into the future. The separatists will provide us with vision, magic and healing. The militants will provide us with the courage and tactics to directly challenge our oppressors. And the assimilationists will mediate between us and those oppressors and show them that we are truly everywhere.

Mickey Wheatley was formerly a staff attorney with Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund in New York and is currently helping to organize Stonewall twentieth anniversary celebrations in New York City.

The opinions expressed in Speaking Out are those of the author(s) and are not intended to represent the views of the GCN membership.

Hello/Goodbye

You know how sometimes you walk into a revolving door and the person in front of you is pushing really fast and then someone jumps into the section right behind you and starts shoving like a maniac and you feel swept off your feet and almost like you might get caught in the revolving door going around and around until infinity!

Well, you should try working here.

Chris Bull, GCN's National Reporter and Circulation Coordinator for nearly two years, left a few weeks ago to find his destiny in the Big Apple. Oh, how we'll miss his provocative looks and his cute stories (or was it the other way around?). Of course, we haven't heard word one from him since he left town so we can only hope that if he's reading this he knows we wish him the best of luck!

Jennie McKnight truly got caught in the revolving door. She finished up one day as the News Editrix and started the next day as National Reporter and Circulation Co-coordinator. Welcome back Jennie, your dreams were your ticket out. Welcome back, to that same old place you used to laugh about.

Marcos Bisticas-Cocoves becomes the all-new temporary Promo-Homo next week — many readers will remember Marcos as our National Reporter and Circulation Coordinator from the B.C.B. (Before Chris Bull) Era. Welcome back Marcos, your dreams were your ticket out...oh, never mind!

Kelly Gaines joins the crew as the permanent brand new News Editrix where her attention to detail and limitless ability to quote pertinent lines from every 'Brady Bunch' episode should keep the typesetter quiet on Thursday nights. Welcome aboard Kelly, and remember, that's the way we all became the Collective Bunch.

Meanwhile, we are now advertising for a new Coordinating Editor, Art Directrix, and a permanent Promotions/Classified Coordinator, all positions to be filled by the end of the summer. Then we plan to lock the doors and never let anyone leave ever again.

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SPEAKING OUT

Lesbian visibility: 'we're safer than we think'

By Linda L. Anderson

Being an out lesbian is different from coming out as a lesbian. The former implies an ongoing visibility, while the latter is mainly an acknowledgment. Being out helps us love ourselves and one another more fully. Hiding our lesbianism or coming out only when we feel it's completely safe — living "in the closet" — damages us and our communities, perpetuating the hatred and fear so common to us all.

One of the most destructive results of being closeted as a lesbian is the psychic stress and drain associated with hiding the most central part of a lesbian's character — our affectional and sexual identity. Holistic approaches to living emphasize integrating our emotional, intellectual, physical and spiritual selves into one rich and deep being in order to achieve our healthiest state. I see lesbian "outness" as essential to this goal.

Staying in the closet takes its toll daily. Consider some of the more obvious price tags: going to work on Monday morning after attending a particularly fine lesbian event over the weekend and not feeling able to share this with your co-workers; describing your live-in lover to your parents as a roommate; hearing a vicious anti-lesbian remark and letting it go unchallenged for fear you'll be found out; losing a woman lover and trying to hide your grief and pain because you haven't told those around you about the involvement in the first place; claiming you're just not ready to get involved when someone offers to change your single status by introducing you to some "really nice guy"; being unwilling to work on a political project geared towards lesbians or gay men because you think being associated with the group will blow your cover; squelching your feminist values in order to avoid the prevailing attitude that feminist = lesbian = man-hater; refusing to subscribe to or write for lesbian or gay publications because you don't want your mother/mailman/landlady to figure out the truth from your mail.

All of these examples appear to be blaming only the outside world, but they can also be an indication of self-hatred on the part of the closeted lesbian, a kind of internalized homophobia or lesbophobia. It's true that parents may reject us, job security is sometimes threatened, our children can be taken away, harassment for how we look or behave can be around any corner, and at worst, we can be killed for loving the "wrong" person. But I think we have a responsibility to challenge the ways in which we feel our lesbianism is the most horrible thing we could reveal. Lesbianism ought to be a source of pride and joy, and I suggest that we're often safer than we think, but we refuse to even test the limits.

Our visibility is crucial to ending discrimination. Changing people's minds about their fear of lesbians occurs when a flesh and blood woman whom they already like, whom they know to be a trustworthy friend or employee, who already exists as a person reveals her sexual identity and how that fits into her day to day life. This added information forces them to re-evaluate the prejudice they hold, since it no longer fits with reality. (I think this is also an important strategy for helping to pass the gay rights bill.) Besides, there are many other reasons to be targeted for discrimination — being a woman, being Black, being a feminist, being fat, being disabled, being old. Hiding our lesbianism offers a false sense of security. If someone is determined to get you, they'll find a way. Chances are that many people already know you're a lesbian anyway, as much as by what you don't say as by what you do. At least if you're visible they can't covertly use that against you; the fear of being exposed is gone. And being out helps us support one another when the shit hits the fan. If someone's going to hassle or fire you for being a lesbian, you'll need allies nearby.

Job security is often a primary rationale for staying in the closet. But more than purely trying to protect our jobs, I perceive a growing number of lesbians moving toward a kind of unexamined appropriation of mainstream values. Buying houses, getting "married," competing for high paying jobs in business or finance, having babies and taking on the American "dream" in a lesbian nuclear family way becomes the focus

of our energy. This can minimize or exclude outright any kind of lesbian political awareness, much less activism. American culture has strong and persuasive messages that success is defined in terms of money and acquisitions and other kinds of "normal" achievements. And while we have an absolute right as lesbians to a secure job, home and family life, I want us to look at some of the consequences that might result from trying to achieve certain goals that demand compromises and denials that deaden the spirit and often damage our physical health. I want us to look at our priorities and the ways we sell out, how we take the \$40,000 a year job for the money with full knowledge that we may have to pass for straight the whole time, thereby diminishing our lesbianism. We think it's only a small part of our lives, and we can live it after five o'clock and on weekends. This reinforces the myth that lesbianism is a matter of sexual preference only and needn't be given any more consideration than that.

Or we spend two days "de-lesbianizing" our apartment before mom and dad show up for a visit — taking down posters, removing books from the shelves, putting the lover in the guest bedroom — because we fear that if they knew we were gay, they wouldn't love us or maybe would even cut us out of the will. What kind of love is it that rests on fitting into someone else's idea of who we should be?

A relationship between friends or lovers is often burdened and less than it could be when it takes place in a closet. Not feeling able to talk about her freely, or hug, or take phone calls; not attending social events together except those for gays, or avoiding events entirely; the tension at family gatherings; the nagging sense that there's something wrong with the relationship; sexual inhibition from the internal censors — all of this is a heavy weight to bear along with all the other demands of intimacy.

Discovering the lesbian in a crowd because she's wearing a labyrinth or a pink triangle or a double women's symbol, or because you overhear a conversation she's having about a lesbian event or book eliminates the guessing game and we can get right to the heart of the matter — connecting with another lesbian. It's hard enough for us to find one another without veiling our identities. Relying on bars or the all-too-few women's/lesbian cultural events in order to meet other lesbians is too lonely and creates too much pressure.

Those of us who are visible as lesbians often take the risks for others and get pegged as the "political ones," tokenized and scapegoated. It's always the same out lesbians who are called upon to represent us, the same ones asked to stick their necks out and, ironically, the same ones who get the praise for being so "brave." This praise can ring hollow especially when it comes from other lesbians who aren't willing to do their part.

Women just embracing their lesbianism need role models, and all straight women need to know there's an alternative to heterosexuality. These women can't find us if we're invisible.

Clearly, not everyone can be safely out at this point in time: those of us in certain parts of the education field, living in repressive atmospheres in some rural parts of the country, lesbians fighting custody battles. But we need to honestly evaluate how much is irrational fear and how much is genuine threat if we're going to test the limits of oppression and live out our commitment to women more passionately. And some calculated risk taking has to happen. Why not start support groups for lesbians who want to be more visible? Even a gay civil rights bill, as essential and necessary a first step as it is, will not automatically get rid of the closets. That's a struggle that happens from the inside out.

Linda L. Anderson is a writer living in Connecticut.

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Members of Youth Expression Theatre from *Sticks, Stones and Stereotypes*

Ellen Nylen

Sticks, stones and stereotypes

Innovative high school curriculum addresses homophobia and racism

Sticks, Stones, and Stereotypes. A video-curriculum module about name-calling. Developed by the Equity Institute Appreciating Diversity Program. Video produced by Cindy Marshall. With Julio Dicent, Adam Lup-Sax, Sheila Ravnell, Megan Smith, and the Youth Expressions Theatre Company. Boston premiere May 20 (see calendar for listings). "Sticks, Stones, and Stereotypes" is available from the Equity Institute, 48 North Pleasant Street, Amherst, MA 01002. (413) 256-0271.

By Liz Galst

Ah, remember high school? The constant crashing of locker doors, being in love (unrequited, of course) with your best friend, getting called names in phys. ed. Even if you were, or are, the kind of kid who escaped the worst of high school, no one can tell me it's an easy place to be at all different or, god for bid, queer. "Faggot," "nigger," and countless other slurs are uttered at least three times a minute in most high schools, and if the school lunches don't kill you, the peer pressure probably will. To top it off, teachers, the theoretical allies of students, are reluctant to intervene in name-calling. They almost always ignore homophobic insults lest they end up targeted as queer themselves.

When I was in high school, I thought the only way to cope was to watch a lot of

movies, keep my head low, and try to graduate early.

The Equity Institute, which is a multi-ethnic agency offering resources and training in combatting oppression of many kinds, has developed a different approach. They call it "intervention." You know, getting teachers and students to learn that verbal abuse does, in fact, break the spirit, and providing strategies to confront it in the classroom.

Towards this end, they've developed a videotape and curriculum guide designed for high school and first-year college students called *Sticks, Stones, and Stereotypes*. The 26-minute video, produced by Cindy Marshall, is composed of interviews with a multi-racial group of gay and straight youth, and punctuated by poignant skits written and performed by the Youth Expressions Theatre Company. The video is bilingual (Spanish/English), and refreshingly without narration. Basically, it's kids talking from the heart about homophobia, racism and anti-semitism in a way that their peers can understand. The curriculum guide, which is less centered on homophobia than the tape, offers all sorts of ways for teachers to teach about and intervene in verbal attacks. If you ask me, the whole thing sounds quite promising.

The video is one of those not-too-slick, but moving documentaries that always brings a tear to my eye. The camera work is a little bit shaky at times, the skits are occasionally awkward, but all in all, *Sticks* testifies to the power of honest communication. The tape opens with some video *verite* of high school students talking about the cutting effects of name-calling. Then the four featured students — Megan, Julio, Adam, and Sheila — talk about the social

function of name-calling, which is, as my uncle would say, "to make the average schlepper feel like he's better than the next guy." There's a skit in which a white boy calls a Black boy "faggot" and a Black girl intervenes and asks "and so what if he is gay?" The tape immediately cuts to Megan talking about anti-Chinese harassment she has experienced (a somewhat confusing editing choice), and then about her realizing her lesbianism, and her experiences coming out and living as a dyke.

Marshall's video also gives members of the dominant group, namely straight white high school boys, someone to identify with. In the next skit, Chad, who pushed around his Black classmate in the first skit, is able to support his girlfriend's lesbian best friend Maya and her girlfriend Bobbi, who want to go to the prom together. First, however, he expresses fear that he will be labelled gay for being supportive.

Next up in a real life segment is Adam, a straight, white 16-year-old. He says seeing two boys or two girls kissing in the hallway might make him uncomfortable, but that people should not let themselves be ruled by fear of difference. Like Chad, he is able to confront his prejudice after acknowledging it. Adam also discusses anti-semitic sentiment he's experienced at school, though I wish he'd been a bit more clear about it.

In the third skit, Daryl, the star of the high school basketball team, comes out as queer to his best friend Max, who seems relatively supportive. We then meet Julio, a real-life Latino college student who talks about his process of self-acceptance. He tells humorous anecdotes about coming out to his mother and her horror that he might wear dresses and make-up. "Yo soy quien yo soy" (I am what I am) is his reply, "I am your son, and if I want to wear an earring I will." Here I wanted Julio to say that it would be okay if he *did* want to wear a dress, but I realize that some school officials might find this a little too advanced for Homosexuality 101. Anyway, Julio stole my heart. To see such strength in someone so young!

Just as I was tiring of the inter-cutting between interviews and skits, I was stung by a most touching sketch. Clem, a basketball team moron, is harassing Daryl for being gay. Daryl's friend Max tells Clem to get lost and he and Daryl leave to get something to eat. Then Clem says to another boy "Better stay away from him [Daryl], probably has AIDS. They all have it." The boy tells him to shut up. AIDS is not a gay disease. His sister has it, and her baby. They just found out.

This moving AIDS sketch is followed by an interview with Sheila, an 18-year-old straight Black high school student who makes the connections between homophobia and racism. "Homophobia and racism interact left and right, back and forth," she says. She talks about learning to overcome her homophobia and become an ally to her gay and lesbian friends. The tape ends on an up-beat note with Megan, talking about gaining her power and becoming in-

Continued on page 12

In defense of anal sex

Suggesting that gay men give up anal sex reeks of homophobia



By Michael Callen

The following is a condensed version of "In Defense of Anal Sex," PWA Coalition, Issue 41, Feb. 1989.

For the past five years, there has been consensus within the U.S. gay community about what constitutes safer sex. But the first signs of cracks in the consensus recently emerged.

The Canadian AIDS Society recently stated that oral sex is low risk, making official what has been unofficial for some time in Canada (and Australia). One of Chicago's gay newspapers, *Outlines*, quotes Leslie Wagman of AIDS Vancouver as saying, "We have been telling people that oral sex is low risk at least for the last two years. [AIDS Vancouver doesn't] encourage people to swallow semen, but if they do, it's a minimal increase in risk."

Predictably, there is disagreement here in the U.S. David Winters, the coordinator of AIDS prevention at Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC) in New York, believes the Canadian educators are "foolish." "Unprotected fellatio with ejaculation should be in the high risk category," he asserts. Contradicting GMHC, Chuck Fruthey of San Francisco's AIDS Foundation states that the Canadians "are correct in saying oral sex is probably a low risk activity. Many gay men in San Francisco never gave up oral sex in the first place and yet the city has seen a remarkable decrease in transmission [of HIV]."

But it's anal sex that is shaping up as the real battleground. [For the purposes of this article, anal sex means sex involving at least one man's penis — in other words not anal sex with inanimate objects.] Washington, D.C.'s respected Whitman Walker Clinic has used \$25,000 of community funds to run a horrifying ad campaign urging gay men to give up anal sex entirely — even with a condom. "Can you live without anal sex?" asks the ad. "You can enjoy your sex life without risking the rest of your life," answers the ad.

Strictly speaking, in none of the ads does Whitman Walker categorically say that all gay men should give up anal sex — even with a condom. However, it is quite clear from the slant of the ads that a majority of Whitman Walker's board believes that any man who continues to engage in anal intercourse — even with a condom — is nuts. The following is excerpted from the policy statement passed by Whitman Walker's Ex-

ecutive Committee:

...particular emphasis is needed not only on the extreme risks of unprotected anal intercourse but also on the unpredictable yet equally alarming dangers of protection failure through condom breakage, undetected faults, and/or improper usage. Therefore, the Clinic will in the future stress the potentially life-saving option of totally eliminating anal intercourse from sex practices.

Whitman Walker's position can be faulted on three points:

(1) It is an equivocation, if they believe, as they clearly do, that anal sex even with a condom poses a great likelihood of killing you, they should say so outright and aggressively urge everyone to stop having anal sex entirely.

(2) It represents a failure of political will. Instead of urging gay men to pull out before they cum (even if they're wearing a condom); instead of demanding stricter standards for condom manufacture and inspection (or even manufacturing our own condoms, as a Swiss AIDS organization has done); instead of redoubling efforts to educate gay men about the proper use of condoms; instead of demanding a national AIDS educational campaign which speaks bluntly in non-clinical language that people can understand, they have decided to "stress" that the best solution to the problem of AIDS is to give up anal sodomy entirely.

The implication in Whitman Walker's ads is that anal sex is some exotic, extraneous vice, like, say, cigarette smoking — that it is an unimportant practice in a way that vaginal sex could never be.

(3) It is subtly homophobic in its logical inconsistency. It treats anal sex for men as inherently less important than vaginal sex for a man and woman. Although available evidence clearly indicates that vaginal intercourse can transmit HIV (and Whitman Walker claims to address the health concerns of gays and bisexuals), it would be un-

thinkable to initiate a campaign "stressing" that men and women should try to "live without" vaginal intercourse.

It's important to make explicit a number of presumptions buried in Whitman Walker's decision to discourage anal sex, even with a condom.

Whitman Walker assumes that HIV is the cause of AIDS and that a single unlucky contact can lead to HIV infection and therefore AIDS. They use a formula that goes as follows: If the presumed risk for a particular sex act is high, and if we arbitrarily judge the particular form of sexual expression to be unimportant or expendable, then we'll recommend that you give it up entirely. For example, Whitman Walker decides that the risks associated with oral sex are below some arbitrary and unenumerated threshold of risk; that the risk of vaginal and anal intercourse (involving penises) are above that threshold; and that vaginal intercourse (while admittedly risky) is an important form of human sexual expression, while anal intercourse is not.

Homophobia is the culprit

Why the change now? When the Canadians have downgraded the risk of oral sex (even with ejaculation), why is Whitman Walker upgrading the risk of anal sex with a condom? I called them to find out.

I spoke with Jim Graham, Executive Director of Whitman Walker, who said that in Washington, D.C., 85 percent of AIDS cases are the result of gay male sex. He cited a Johns Hopkins study of 3,000 gay men and indicated that "100 percent of the AIDS cases involved individuals who took the passive role in anal intercourse. In D.C., the threat posed to men who have sex with men, in terms of anal intercourse, is very substantial indeed — so much so that this ad campaign is not a casual devaluation of anal sex. We know that anal sex is the primary way in which the virus is being spread in terms of gay and bisexual men and we've made a judgment about it."

Although I find a 100 percent admission of passive anal intercourse surprising (since it has been my experience that there is always a certain percentage of liars in every cohort), the association of passive anal intercourse with AIDS is certainly not new.

I worry about the new generation of gay men. Many — maybe most — have not experienced the joys of anal sex. They have no experience to measure the dire warnings against.

But I fear that the hidden reason for suggesting that gay men give up anal sex entirely is squeamishness about the asshole. The implication in Whitman Walker's ads is that anal sex is some exotic, extraneous vice, like, say, cigarette smoking — that it is an unimportant practice in a way that vaginal sex could never be. Again, this reeks of homophobia.

How should we respond?

Whitman Walker's slick ad copy asks gay men to make an important sexual decision and then does not respect their intelligence enough to make a reasoned choice. The ads do not articulate precisely what the risks posed by anal sex with a condom are. How often do condoms fail and why? And what are the odds that a single condom failure will result in the transmission of HIV? "Even with condoms, you're not 100 percent protected because condoms can break from undetected faults and improper use," correctly asserts the ad. Why not use \$25,000 to do an ad campaign urging gay men to pull out before they come — even when using a condom? And whoever said condoms were 100 percent effective in the first place? If it's 100 percent protection that's going to be the standard, then the only advice we can offer is to not have sex at all with other people.

In fairness to Whitman Walker, I do believe that the primary motivation for this misguided anti-anal sex campaign is a legitimate concern for saving lives.

The process of approving safer sex guidelines is like the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) drug approval process; it has a tendency toward conservatism. As the conservative Heritage Foundation (of all groups!) has observed, the FDA has no incentive to approve drugs. For example,

there has never been a congressional investigation about why the FDA failed to approve a drug; but there have been many congressional investigations which punished the FDA for approving a drug which proved to have harmful side effects. In other words, like the FDA, guardians of gay health will always err on the side of caution. For example, rather than admit that oral sex is actually reasonably safe, U.S. AIDS educators would rather thousands of gay men suffer unnecessary guilt and anxiety over performing oral sex than risk being sued by the one individual who gets HIV from the exclusive practice of oral sex. *What's missing from the calculation is a fair assessment of the emotional and psychological importance to individuals of particular forms of sexual expression.*

It seems to me that in the United States, we're loathe to admit any scientific evidence which suggests we might, in fact, be able to relax some of our safe sex paranoia.

As much as we might like to make other people's decisions for them — to enforce our personal standards of safer sex — the fact is that each of us must make his/her own determination about what risks he/she is willing to take. Our task as a community is to make sure that each person has all the information needed to adequately and accurately assess risk — to the extent possible in a situation where there are no absolutes. Further, we must ensure that people have the information they need to reduce any risk which they may choose to take.

I understand Whitman Walker's frustration — their desire to be more conservative. By force of will, or by legislation, or through peer pressure, we'd all love to prevent another individual from becoming infected with whatever is causing AIDS. But we must resist the temptation to judge each other harshly for the sexual choices we make.

I worry about the new generation of gay men. Many — maybe most — have not experienced the joys of anal sex. They have no experience to measure the dire warnings against. They hear their own leaders giving the same advice as the Falwells: anal sex kills, even if you use a condom.

Some may feel that only an asshole would defend the asshole in the age of AIDS, but I take the radical view that butt fucking must be defended vigorously — especially in the sexophobic, homophobic period we're living through! What's needed is a clear statement of the importance of sexual fulfillment combined with a commitment to provide each and every person with the information he or she needs to celebrate sex safely! □

News flash: Boo Bush at BU!

BOSTON — Lesbian and gay activists and their supporters are planning a protest action at the graduation ceremony for Boston University (BU) students on May 21, where Pres. George Bush will be given an honorary doctorate.

Judy Andler, a member of MASS ACT OUT — the group organizing the protest — urged activists to "meet your queer peers" and demonstrate against Bush and homophobic BU President John Silber. Andler said protesters will gather between 8 and 9 a.m. at 955 Commonwealth Ave. and will proceed to the graduation ceremony. For more information about the protest, contact MASS ACT OUT at (617) 661-7737.

□ **Jennie McKnight**



FGWM (L-R): Jaffe Cohen, Bob Smith, Danny McWilliams

Pass the gravy to a homosexual

F.G.W.M. get laughs

F.G.W.M. (Funny Gay White Males). At the Comedy Connection, Boston, May 1, to benefit Boston's Gay/Lesbian Pride Committee. F.G.W.M. appear Friday and Saturday nights in June at the Duplex, New York City.

By Mike Friedman

When *GCN* asked me to review a show called "Funny Gay White Males," I was a bit taken aback. "What do they do?" I asked. "They're comedians," my editor replied. "Besides, it's a fundraiser for Pride." Dubiously, I accepted the assignment.

My trepidation turned out to be unfounded. These guys are very funny. A small crowd showed up at the Comedy Connection to see the trio made up of Danny McWilliams, Bob Smith and Jaffe Cohen. After a short introduction by Steve Tierney of the Mass. Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus, McWilliams came onto the tiny stage, empty but for a few props tucked away on a table.

Warming up the crowd with jokes about Catholic schools and what it's like to work as a word processor for a temp agency in New York, he quickly began a fabulous rendition of a talkative secretary at a huge law firm. Donning cat's-eye glasses with a chain and a large bouffant wig, she proceeded to carry on a lightning-fast dish session/conversation with her best friend, periodically interrupting her chatter to answer the other line. Every time she announced the seven or eight names in the law firm in one short breath, the audience roared.

McWilliams showed his finest, though, when he helped the audience visualize a new

version of *The Wizard of Oz*, this time with the role of Dorothy played by Bette Davis. It was truly memorable. When Dorothy/Bette lands in Oz, the first thing she does is light a cigarette and say in that very clipped Miss Davis fashion, "I've a feeling we're not in Kansas, *Toe-Toe!*" virtually spitting out the name of her dog, bugging her eyes out and blowing smoke in large clouds toward the audience.

Bob Smith was #2 of the F.G.W.M. line-up. Much drier and considerably less manic than either McWilliams or Cohen, Smith was also less entertaining than the others. Several of his jokes did hit home, though, most noticeably his story of coming out in the stifling atmosphere of his suburban family home in Buffalo. Sitting around the table at Thanksgiving, he asked his mother if she would "pass the gravy to a homosexual."

Jaffe Cohen came last in the evening's line-up, and they certainly saved the best for the end. "My Aunt Miriam just came back from a trip around the world. She didn't care for it," he said. Cohen's stand-up seemed to especially touch all of the gay men in the audience, from his tales of shopping trips with his mother ("I should put that on my resume") to his hilarious recounting of the trials of gym class in high school. Watching him put his arm behind his back and hold it with his other hand, while looking at his nails, certainly brought back memories of volleyball in ninth grade P.E. for me.

F.G.W.M. is a show well worth catching. The trio will be playing at the Duplex in the Village in New York every Friday and Saturday in June. □

Int'l Ms. Leather contest sizzles in S.F.

Contestants and audience strut their stuff

By Wickie Stamps

Any West Coast rumbling you felt March 25 wasn't the apocryphal earthquake. It was the International Ms. Leather contest in San Francisco, slamming lesbian sexuality off the Richter scale. With attire that would put Motley Crue to shame and performance sets badder than the baddest Prince prance, members of the leather community strutted their stuff. Founded in 1986, the International Ms. Leather contest raises funds for community organizations and also offers public education in positive leather lifestyles. This year, IMs.L catapulted the San Franciscan Hotel which housed the 400-plus horde into a world where folks are kicking AIDS' ass and kissing nobody's — unless you'd like them to.

For the three days of activities leading up to the contest, San Francisco proper saw a marked increase in its already high quota of

leather boys and girls. From the twilight cocktails at Navigator Travel Agency to the Down and Dirty Dance Party at Amelia's local women's bar — the leather crowds were everywhere. Kudos to all the cabbies who didn't bat an eye while they carted decked out leather girls to and from these night fantasias.

The Thursday night press conference set the IMs.L tone of hospitable hotness, humor and political savvy. IMs.L board members Sky Renfro and Pat Califia introduced the 11 IMs.L contenders. They asserted leather pride was pivotal to IMs.L, and that the next IMs.L winner would be not only a spokesperson for leatherwomen but also an advocate for positive leather images.

The 11 competing leatherettes came wrapped in varying physiques, fashions, and political sizes. Some were sponsored by their local S/M clubs; others were supported by

local leather stores or organizations. Many were already title holders. Although representation was heaviest from the West Coast there was also a contender from Vancouver and another from Tennessee (especially notable was Tennessee's hot looking escort, someone you could easily wrap around an orgasm).

The following night at the Black Elegance Ball, tremors were felt from the moment the doors opened and leather folks began pouring in. At midnight the erotic energy reached overload as a richly diverse community pulsed to laser shows and funky tunes.

The sexual peak, however, came during the Saturday night contest. Master of Ceremonies, a.k.a. International Mr. Leather Mike Pereyra (as sweet as he is gorgeous), declared that he had "never seen so many tits in his life." His co-emcee, the "Bay Area Bon Vivant" Jo-Carol, whipped the panting crowd into submission with her handy riding crop. The audience often outshined the stage action as genderbending reigned supreme. Transvestites, female cross dressers and drag queens decked the halls. Full body tattoos, tit piercings, total leather face masks and chains were in abundance. Full-harnessed gay leathermen were everywhere — helping out, performing on-stage as "The Dobermans" or just nuzzling up to their Daddies. Local and national big kids — Kitty Tsui, Gayle Rubin, Shadow (a previous S.F. title holder), and Coulter Thomas (prior International Mr. Leather) were among the avid IMs.L fans.

The show finally began. The contestants — women into cat fetishes, martial arts, tons of recovery, knives, and political activism — articulated what they'd bring to the IMs.L title to an attentive crowd. Humor ran high as many an aspirant expressed her willingness to "bottom" for the entire IMs.L Board (a not too unpleasant task by any stretch of the imagination). A lighthearted banter developed between a contestant known as Safe Sex Officer Bettie and the raunchy crowd when she sauntered onto stage and hollered "Hell-o perverts!"

But the levity was tempered with seriousness as contestants raised the issues of AIDS and social oppression. Susie Shepherd of Portland, Oregon Power and Trust (an S/M support group) received a standing ovation when she talked about the need to fight for *Roe v. Wade* and the gamut of women's rights. She also implored leather people to fight against the Klan and New Right, "for nowhere is there a negotiated scene." Acclades were heaped on gay leathermen Mack McKinnon and JimEd

Thompson, both of whom recently died of AIDS. Vancouver title holder Jo Leroux (also director of an alcoholism recovery house) said she was competing to "keep the dream of Mack McKinnon alive."

Again and again, AIDS topped the leather agenda. Later Shan Carr, outgoing IMs.L reasserted that despite "our exhaustion" the "leather community has to stop that fucker AIDS." She honored JimEd Thompson whose "...vision and courage was a driving force behind IMs.L ... an example for us to live passionately and courageously." (Missing from all the fanfare was Judy Tallwings McCarthey, the first IMs.L. This absence was due to the illness of her lover Sashie, who died shortly after the event. My personal condolences to Judy and to the entire Portland leather community.)

All were then somersaulted from this seriousness into the infamous fantasy segments of the contest. At one point, a high priestess dripped hot wax on her willing virgin and at another, a snooty teacher got her well-deserved erotic spanking from her naughty student. Fantasies depicting unity between lesbians and gay men were roundly applauded. Social commentaries lurked behind some of the guerrilla theatre as heroines on motorcycles rescued women from rapists. Safe sex Officer Bettie of the Outcasts (an S/M women's group in S.F.) whipped up high camp at her pretend party as she chastised the group of girls for not playing safe and then not only instructed them in how to do it safely, but also joined in herself. The audience ducked and laughed as condoms and gloves plummeted down from the stage. (If any of you AIDS educators are looking for some creative ideas, definitely hunt down the Outcasts.) Some of these fantasy segments were so hot that the crowd groaned collectively (and some of us damn near fell off the balconies).

And now for the winners: first place went to Susie Shepherd of Portland, Oregon Power and Trust; first runner up was Bettie Harlow of the S.F. Outcasts; second runner up was Nina Darst, sponsored by Scooter's Custom Leathers and MST Enterprises of S.F. The losers? None. Monies raised will be donated to the Gay Rescue Mission, a gay homeless shelter that services a large population of people with AIDS/ARC/HIV; Women Emerging, a support network of women who want to check out alternatives to the sex industry, and the San Francisco MidCity Consortium to Combat AIDS, which provides AIDS education to IV drug users and their partners. □

'A Chorus Line's' James Kirkwood dies at 58

By Michael Bronski

NEW YORK — James Kirkwood, actor and novelist most famous for co-writing the book of the Broadway musical *A Chorus Line*, died Saturday, April 22, at his home in Manhattan. Arthur Beckenstein, a close friend, said that Kirkwood died of spinal cancer, and gave the writer's age as 58. Kirkwood, himself, only occasionally admitted to being born in 1924, explaining, "As an actor, I got into the habit of lying about my age."

Kirkwood started his theatrical career at fourteen when he followed his parents James Kirkwood, Sr., and Lila Lee, a prominent silent screen actress, into the business. After appearing in many plays and films, he spent three years in the U.S. Coast Guard. He returned to the stage and worked in several musicals, including *Panama Hattie*. Kirkwood also co-starred with Tallulah Bankhead in *Welcome Darlings*. In recent years, he appeared in the films *Mommie Dearest*, *Oh God, Book II*, and *The Super-naturals*.

As a playwright, Kirkwood was noted for the mordant black comedy, *Unhealthy to be Unpleasant*, which was produced on Broadway in 1966, and, more recently, the play *Legends*, which toured with Mary Martin and Carol Channing. He also wrote a memoir of his experiences with *Legends*, which is to be published next month, called *Diary of a Mad Playwright*. Kirkwood was also a novelist. He wrote several popular books that had gay characters or gay themes. Among his works are the autobiographical *There Must be a Pony*, which he later adapted into a TV movie starring Elizabeth Taylor, *Good Times/Bad Times, P.S. Your Cat is Dead* (about the relationship between

a gay man and a heterosexual burglar who breaks into his home) and *Some Kind of Hero* which tells the story of two men who become lovers in a prisoner of war camp during the Korean War.

But Kirkwood will probably be best remembered for his work on *A Chorus Line*. He won both a Tony Award and a Pulitzer Prize for co-writing the book of the longest running Broadway show in history. The musical *A Chorus Line* is noted for introducing a fully developed gay male character into the genre of the Broadway musical.

Kirkwood was a member of the Screen Actors Guild and Actors Equity, as well as the Dramatists Guild and PEN.

He is survived by a half-brother and half-sister. □

Birth announcement

Maureen Brodoff and Ellen Wade

Announce the Birth

of

Their Daughter

Katherine Wade Brodoff

February 2, 1989

6 Pounds, 11 Ounces

19 7/8 Inches

Birthday mugger sentenced

By Jennie McKnight

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — A man accused of drugging and robbing gay men in several Massachusetts cities in 1987 pleaded guilty to three counts of armed robbery in Middlesex County Superior Court May 2. Judge John T. Sullivan sentenced Frank Komnenus, Jr. — also known as "Dominic Perini" or the "birthday mugger" — to six to nine years at the Cedar Junction Prison at Walpole, Mass.

Komnenus was arrested in New London, Conn. on Nov. 12, 1987 after a series of robberies occurred in Cambridge, Boston, Brookline and Provincetown. The attacker, who met most of his victims in gay bars, used the same ploy in most of the incidents. He would introduce himself as "Dominic Perini," say it was his birthday and offer to buy his victim a drink, which he then spiked with a tranquilizer. "Perini's" victims blacked out from the drug and were robbed, often after they had been taken to their own homes.

Joyce Collier, co-coordinator of the Fenway Community Health Center's Victim Recovery Program, which assisted in the investigations that led to Komnenus' arrest, told *GCN* she was pleased with the outcome of the case. "This case was a really nice example of the community coming together. Our program, working closely with the press, some of the bars, the police and the District Attorney's office, led to this man's capture. It's important that this man received significant jail time," said Collier.

Tom Samoluk, a spokesperson for the Middlesex County District Attorney's office, said prosecutors in the case asked Sullivan to give Komnenus a 15-20 year sentence. Samoluk said Komnenus would have to serve at least four years in prison before he would be eligible for parole. □

Terry joined 80 other protesters in shutting down the Golden Gate Bridge, an action which blocked morning rush hour traffic for 40 minutes and drew national attention. Many people affiliated with Stop AIDS Now or Else, the group responsible for the action, credit Terry with coming up with the idea of causing a massive traffic jam in order to stop "business as usual."

Terry was loved and respected by all those whose lives he touched. We were deeply moved by his compassion, warmth, and sense of humor. His commitment constantly taught us, and challenged us to escalate the fight to end this epidemic. When discussing his activism, Terry always said, "If not me, who? If not now, when?" We carry his spirit with us as we recommit ourselves to the struggle for lesbian and gay liberation and the fight against AIDS. Act up, fight back, fight AIDS. □



Saying goodbye to Terry: flowers and flyers at the April 24 memorial



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Terry

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from here to there,
Breathing to unnatural stillness.

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for those who can afford it.

SADNESS IS UNSETTLING.

We carry the ashes back,
to the crystal clear edge of the sea.
Little whitecaps and,
billowing racing sails.

Smudged fingers dig into —
what was once all of you.
Your laugh and energy.
Anger and frustration.
Gently flung free at last.

WE STAND IN A CIRCLE AND THINK.

Not too long ago I caught
you staring into space.
"Lost in thought?" I asked
"Is death the end?" you answered,
"is it where all this shit stops?"

Tragic apologies two short
weeks later and still the question
flounders unanswered.
Ripples-teary pity-past pictures,
kaleidoscope crash images.
You thumping my heart with pain.

HOW WILL THE LOSS BE REGAINED?

If I had one bone of yours to plant,
in well tilled and fertilized soil,
would you grow up out of the earth,
spreading shady safety on those,
gathered below your boughs?

Is anyone listening?
Does anybody know?
Hello? Hello?

Waiyde Palmer

COMMUNITY GUIDE

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Watkins

Continued from page 1

frustration and harassment that characterized the end of his active duty career made him reluctant to return.

"I enjoyed being in the service, but it certainly was a place where I was getting harassed a lot," said Watkins. "Towards the end they had people falsifying documents and placing them in my record, and they had people trying to get me to crack under pressure.... If I were given the opportunity to return to the service I enlisted in — that treated me like a soldier and with respect like it did before all this happened — I wouldn't mind going back."

Watkins said he was personally glad about the outcome of the case, although he wished the court had reached a broader decision. He added that he thought "ten or twelve hundred lesbians and gays [in the military] need to stand up" and challenge the anti-gay exclusionary policy.

But Gilberd cautioned that since the decision is so narrow in the Watkins case, it should not be interpreted by lesbians and gay men currently enlisted in the armed forces as a signal to come out to their commanding officers.

□ filed from Boston

Terry Sutton

Continued from page 3

ACT UP chapters from across the country closed down the FDA in Washington, D.C.

Terry worked tirelessly over the past few months to provide access to Foscarnet. His demands forced Astra to open a salvage protocol for Foscarnet in San Francisco even though Terry himself didn't qualify for the protocol. In January of this year, Terry and eight other people from the PISD caucus held a sit-in at San Francisco General Hospital, blocking the entrance to the pharmacy, demanding access to Foscarnet, and challenging the exclusionary focus of treatment protocols.

That same month, with a fever of 104°,

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Waiyde Palmer

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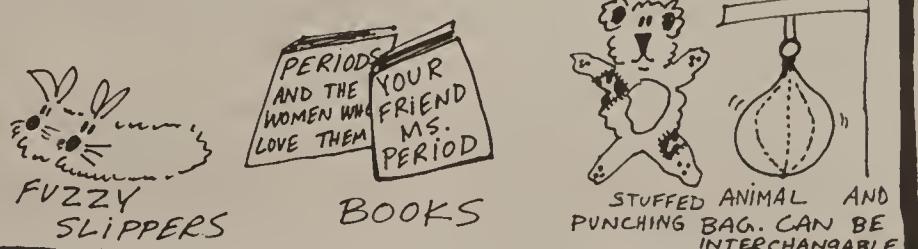
STAY AWAY FROM THESE FOODS.
THEY WILL MAKE YOU EVIL!



WEAR AN EDUCATIONAL
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KEEP THESE NEAR BY.





Eugene D. Valley, Jr. dies of AIDS

By Gene Fedorko

NEW YORK — Gene Valley, 41, formerly of Boston and Provincetown, died of AIDS Jan. 22 in New York City at Cabrini Medical Center.

Born in Dubois, Pennsylvania on March 2, 1947, Valley attended Dubois Central Catholic High School and Penn State University.

He moved to Provincetown in 1978 and to Boston in 1980, where he became known as a colorful character. He had a keen interest in the arts and the classics and was an excellent storyteller. He was exceptionally sociable and was well known and well liked by many people whose lives he touched. He transformed his life in 1979 by quitting drugs and alcohol, and impacted on the lives of many people with the service work he did

in 12-step programs. He was well-travelled and well-read.

He is survived by his mother, Kathleen E. Valley, of Dubois. His father, Eugene D. Valley, Sr., died in 1972. Also surviving are his four sisters, Sara V. Culley, of Hilton Head Island, South Carolina; Ann E. Davenport of Dubois; Theresa Luger of New York City; Kathy Valley of Pittsburgh; a brother, James P. Valley of Dubois; eleven nieces and nephews; and many, many loving friends from all over the world.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in his name may be made to HEAL, an AIDS support group in New York City, P.O. Box 1103, Old Chelsea Station, New York, NY 10113. □

ROTC

Continued from page 1

erupted in chaos. On May 7, at its final meeting this year, the UC decided to table further discussion of the controversy until next year.

Supporters of ROTC criticized the activists for forcing Harvard to take a stand which would have little tangible impact on the military. But Cice said repeatedly that he did not want to make a quiet symbolic statement. "Instead," he said, "we will apply the pressure of negative national publicity on the military." Activists were understandably elated when they began receiving attention. The *New York Times* has covered the story twice, and *Time* magazine recently reported that the "triumph...was but one among several signs that gay power is burgeoning at Harvard." □

Sticks

Continued from page 7

creasingly proud of herself.

Because teaching about complex subjects like homophobia and racism is a lot for any teacher to handle, the Equity Institute has provided a curriculum guide. The guide is divided into five sections, including a detailed resource list, and provides suggestions on how to incorporate the "appreciating diversity" program into the curriculum. Using an "oppression wheel," teachers learn to instruct their students that any kind of oppression disempowers both the oppressor and the oppressed.

For use after the video, there are lots of exercises which will help students take a stand against the name-calling and injustices in their midst. The units employ techniques which bear a strong resemblance to those used in group therapy. Students are asked to discuss their feelings about the issues raised in the video. Confidentiality is stressed, and each session ends with exercises to help students appreciate themselves and each other. In addition, there's a section created especially for guidance counselors which address, among other things, staff awareness, suicide prevention, and guidance techniques.

Sticks, Stones, and Stereotypes is an impressive undertaking. Had it been around

when I was a teenager, I might have found high school something more than a convenient escape from home. Still, I wonder, since the program is meant to teach students to appreciate diversity, why issues of racism, sexism, and class oppression do not figure as prominently as homophobia. Perhaps this is the Equity Institute's sneaky way to get school systems to deal with queers. Whatever their justification, I laud them for their efforts. Now, if they could only do something about the cafeterias. □

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advertise in the Guardian's
Stonewall Supplement!
Help commemorate 20 years of the
lesbian and gay liberation movement.**

Thousands of copies of this special supplement will be distributed FREE at lesbian and gay pride events across the country. Advertising space is available at very low rates. Call Cindy Tarail at 212-691-0404.

Advertising deadlines:

- Issue date: May 31 • Camera-ready ads: May 22
- Press date: May 24 • Non-camera-ready ads: May 19

Safer Sex and Drug Use Guidelines

GCN's guidelines come from a wide variety of sources aimed at various communities concerned about the AIDS epidemic and health in general. We want to confront the prevailing "no sex is best" attitude and present an approach that is as sex-positive as possible.

Be aware that the highest concentrations of HIV (the virus widely thought to cause AIDS) are found in blood and semen. The most common routes of HIV transmission are through sharing needles and unprotected anal or vaginal intercourse.

Information for gay male, lesbian and bisexual communities

Safer sex can include: massage, hugging, kissing, erotic talk, phone sex, masturbation (solo, pairs and groups), using your own vibrators, dildos or other sex toys and s/m, butch/fem role-playing, fantasy scenes, bondage and other activities that do not involve the exchange of semen or blood (including menstrual blood).

Do not allow a partner's semen or blood (including menstrual blood and blood drawn from piercing, cutting or shaving) to enter your vagina, anus, mouth or breaks in your skin.

Use condoms for fucking (anal and vaginal intercourse), for licking/sucking penises and for covering dildos and other sex toys. Use water-based lubricants. Use latex barriers (dental dams or other plastic/latex materials) between the genital area and mouth when licking/sucking cunts and assholes. Be especially careful to avoid the exchange of menstrual blood. Using nonoxynol-9 or other spermicides with condoms and latex barriers may add extra protection.

For finger-fucking or fisting (anal or vaginal penetration with fingers or hands), use latex gloves or finger cots. Use water-based

lubricants.

Alternative insemination may put you at risk. Be sure to discuss risk for AIDS with potential donors or sperm bank.

Be aware that some risk of exposure to immune-suppressing infections (such as mono and amoebiasis) may be associated with rimming (anal-oral contact) — use a latex barrier. Risk may also be associated with watersports (urine) or feces in the mouth, rectum or in open cuts. If you share dildos, vibrators or other sex toys, use condoms or clean toys with hydrogen peroxide.

Your body's ability to fight all disease, including AIDS and its related illnesses (such as Kaposi's Sarcoma and pneumocystis carinii pneumonia), may be benefitted by general good health — good nutrition, lots of rest, exercise and nonabuse of alcohol, poppers and other drugs.

If you use IV drugs, follow the guidelines below.

Intravenous drug use

Do not share works (needles, syringes, droppers, spoons, cottons or cookers).

Do not re-use needles; use fresh cottons each time.

If you must share or re-use your works, clean them as follows: dip needle and works into 100 percent bleach, draw up and release three times, dip needle and works into water, draw up and release three times (in an emergency, rubbing alcohol, vodka or wine can also be used). As an alternative, boil works in water for at least fifteen minutes. Use a fresh solution each time you clean your works.

Resource phone numbers

National AIDS Hotline: 1 (800) 342-7514
AIDS Action Committee (AAC) Boston: (617) 536-7733
Latino AIDS Hotline (bilingual), Boston: (617) 262-7248
AIDS Action Committee (AAC) IV Drug Use Taskforce, Boston: (617) 437-4200
Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC), New York (212) 807-6655
National Minority AIDS Council (NMAC), Washington, D.C. (202) 544-1076
Women's AIDS Network, San Francisco: (415) 864-4376

CLASSIFIEDS

PERSONALS

GCN REPLY BOXES

Replies to GCN Boxes should be addressed to GCN Box #, Gay Community News, 62 Berkeley St., Boston, MA 02116. This applies to GCN Boxes only, not to P.O. Boxes. Mail may be addressed to GCN Boxes for four weeks after the issue in which it appears.

Brilliant gigundo dyke seeks others for correspondence. 5'7" / 240 lb, quite exasperated about it but horrifyingly powerless too. Am I the only one? GCN Box 354. (42)

DANNY, MY BOSTON LOVE-MAN

I love to be with you, and I can't wait to bring you back with me.

Your Philadelphia Teddy-Bear, Don (43)

Motherhood? JM 41, accomplished, fairly normal. (Yes, HTLV-III Neg.) seeks Jewish L/Bi woman to explore having a child and parenting options. Let's talk! GCN Box 352. (43)

LAVERNE

I'm getting married. Lerlene (42)

GCN's circulation department is looking for a volunteer to help set up the Friday evening mailing party. Learn about the exciting world of newspaper circulations and meet the fabulous Friday staff and volunteers. Please call Jennie or Judy at GCN, 426-4469.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RETIRED/OLDER GAYS/LESBIANS

ISO information, interest in gay organization like AARP. Know one? Like to see one established? Work for straight retirement association? Know how to get seed money? Write Jim Harrison, 1340 Vermont Ave. NW no. 2, Washington, DC 20005. (42)

A CALL FOR WRITING: The effect of childhood abuse on pregnancy and childbirth. For guidelines: Laura Davis, Anthology, P.O. Box 460190, San Francisco, CA 94146. (42/50)

ENDING RELATIONSHIPS

Short-term therapy group now forming for lesbians coming out of relationships. Come validate your feelings and discover skills and resources. Put closure on the old and move toward new beginnings. Anita East, Ph.D. (617) 924-6204. (43)

BATTERED LESBIANS

Free on-going support group for women currently or formerly experiencing physical, emotional or sexual abuse by a woman partner. Call HAWC at 508-744-6841 for info and support. (17.20)

Flatpickers and fiddlers wanted for cooperative jamming starting in June. If you'd like to swap and trade leads please write Box 550 (43)

GET PUBLISHED!

GCN's news dept. seeks a volunteer to write news notes. News writing experience not necessary. 5 hr/week (flexible). Call Kelly at 426-4469 for more info. (C)

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Cambridge, MA 02139
(617) 876-7099

ROOMMATE WANTED

CAMBRIDGEPORT SUMMER SUBLT

IGM and 1 straight F seek lesbian (he wants someone queer, she wants a woman) for June-Aug. sublet. Our favorite adjectives are warm, progressive, fun, interesting, supportive, and intelligent. \$267 month plus utilities. 868-7069. (43)

ILF seeking 2LFs for spacious 3br E. Arlington condex; sunny, quiet, aesthetic, yard, storage, MBTA, near Capitol Theatre; nosmke, no pets, no excesses, \$450 incl ht.; Tina 648-0970 lymsg. (45)

ROOMMATE/CAMBRIDGE

Feminist woman for 1920's style apartment. Beautiful hardwood floors, antique furniture, lots of space, independent non-smoker. Five minutes to T. Harvard Square. Available June 1. \$495-plus/month. Ellen 354-3966. (42)

FREQUENT FLYER TO NEW YORK!

Brooklyn share with clean, quiet, discreet lesbian couple. Own bedroom, access to kitchen, two sitting rooms. 20 min to Wall Street, one blk from train. Apt. faces 700-acre Prospect Park. \$350/mo. (718) 965-0477. (43)

SUMMER SUBLT

Lesbian couple looking for one or two more people (couple fine). 2 rooms available, if one person \$200 each, 2 people \$150 each. Apt. is available June till Sept., possibly longer. In West Somerville. Call Patti 666-3920. (43)

JAMAICA PLAIN

Two LF's are looking for two LF's and a toaster to live in large sunny JP apartment, near Orange and Green lines. No smoking, semi-co-op. Pets ok. \$225 and \$250. Avail. in June and Sept. Please call 983-0599. (42)

LF seeks LF to share smoke-free home in Allston near T. Sauna, deck, garden, W/D, common spaces, two private rooms for you. \$450/month plus 1/2 utilities. Available now. 783-3580. (43)

LF to share sunny 3BR JP semi-coop near T and Arboretum. No smoking. Pets are fine. \$335-plus. 522-4368. (43)

HOUSEMATE WANTED

3 LF seek mature 25-plus LF to share beaut. spac. single family house in Dorchester near Ashmont Station. We are a pol. conscious house of women who provide warm stable environ. Plenty of plants and sunshine. \$400 inc. all utilities, great cook, large common living areas, sun room 2nd floor deck that stretches into trees that surround our home. Parking, laundry, fireplace, piano. Call 296-2411. (43)

JAMAICA PLAIN

Six LF/GMs seek 7th to share spacious Vict. home on quiet wooded street. Indep., pkg., w/d, no smoking, near Orange and Green lines. \$300-340 plus util. plus deposit. Avail. June 1 for summer, poss. longer. Call Julie, 522-6350. (42)

LF, 29 seeks 2 non-smoking vegetarian, easy going LF's 25-plus for Somerville apartment with a view. Frances (the cat) wants feline companion. Avail. 6/1, \$310-plus, 776-7909. (42)

SHARE HOUSE IN SOMERVILLE

LF 34 seeks LF 30-plus quiet, responsible, no pets, drinking, drugs, smoking. 3 rooms to yourself. \$500 plus 1/2 utilities. Available 5/1, 628-7487. (42)

Gay female 32 seeks professional responsible non-smoking roommate to look for apartment/house from Framingham areas up to Concord/Arlington areas. No cats. (508) 881-4758 leave message. (42)

1 LF, 1 SF seek 1 F, to share sunny apt. in Davis Square. \$266 plus/mo. Avail. June 1st. No smoke, possible pets. Pls. call 666-8118. (42)

Cat of unknown persuasion seeks LF 25-plus to share JP apartment with personable, well behaved, indoor/outdoor LF owner. Apartment is sunny, spacious 2 BR near T. Roommate should have sense of humor and possess some cat-like qualities. No smoke/drugs, minimum alcohol. No more pets, please. \$337 includes heat. 524-3173. (42)

JP HOUSEMATE

3LF seek 4th to join spacious elem and alcohol free friendly home. Have kitten, no more pets. Available now, call 522-0637 for more details. \$245-plus. (42)

LF and GM 32 seek LF 27-plus for spacious sunny 3 bedroom Belmont-Cambridge apt. Semi-vegetarian, clean, friendly, responsible; No drugs/smoke/alcohol/pets. Near T. \$320-plus. 484-1553. (42)

JAMAICA PLAIN

3LFs looking for 4th to fill our cozy spacious semi-coop home near T. Has wood stove and nice wood floors. We're veget., political and funny. 225/mo-plus, starts July 1st. 522-9351. (42)

TRY GCN'S GUARANTEED ROOMMATE AD

GCN's "Guaranteed Roommate" offer:

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Ads will not be automatically renewed. You must call in every additional week you want the ad to run. Phone calls will be accepted all day Mondays and Tuesdays until noon. 426-4469.

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inches x \$15 \$ _____

Deadline: Tuesday 12 noon for each Friday's edition.

All ads must be prepaid.

No ads accepted over telephone.

Clip and return this form to:

GCN Classifieds

62 Berkeley St.

Boston, MA 02116

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ **Zip** _____

Phone () _____

Total \$ _____

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ROOMMATE WANTED HOUSING WANTED

APARTMENTS SUMMER RENTALS RESORTS

FOR SALE PUBLICATIONS ORGANIZATIONS

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INFAC's national office in Boston needs people committed to peace and justice. Be part of this dynamic international grassroots effort to stop production and promotion of nuclear weapons. Two positions available: Office Manager/Development Administrator and Bookkeeper/Financial Assistant. Living stipend, health and transportation provided. Women and people of color urged to apply. For more information contact Kathy Pillsbury, INFAC, 256 Hanover St., Boston, MA 02113 (617) 742-4583. Apply ASAP! (44)

PAINTERS WANTED

Looking for hard workers to join interior/exterior painting crew for Spring/Summer. Exp. pref. \$10/hr. Start any time. 522-1720. (42

CLASSIFIEDS

ROOMMATE WANTED

Clean mature responsible stable honest 26-plus person for independent household, share chores — cats, piano, gardens, space, large Victorian. Dorchester, on red line. 200-plus, 282-1217. (42)

JOIN US IN JAMAICA PLAIN

2 lesbians seek third for 3 BR Victorian apt. Hardwood floors, living room, kitchen, porch, yard, W/D. Close to T, bus and pond. Nice area and nice neighbors. Available 6/1, \$417 and 1/6 electric. 522-9768 or Julie (days) 725-3562. (42)

PROGRESSIVE COOP CAMBRIDGE

Seeking housemates. We are mixed men/women, mixed sexual orientations, semi-veg. If you are easy-going, responsible, non-smoking, cat-free, call! 864-1466. (42) LF seeks one or two LF's for large Vict. apt. in Worcester, big porch, private entrance, parking, split \$370 plus. Avl. 6/1 (508) 753-9066. (45)

JAMAICA PLAIN SUMMER SUBLET

Three lesbian feminists seeking a L.F. to share beautiful J.P. apartment. Progressive politics, spirit, humor, food, W/D. Near arboretum, T lines. No smoking, no drugs and minimal alcohol use. \$220-plus. Summer sublet (6/1-8/31) dates negotiable. Call Beth at 524-6209. (42)

Som/Camh 2 L.F.s seek amusing 3rd for apt. Near 'T' for 6/1. \$342-plus. Sorry, no pets or smoking. Call 776-6158. (42)

JAMAICA PLAIN PART TIME

Prof LF 35-plus seeks P/T LF 30-plus rmate nr Pond T own rm share kitchen bath no pets non-smkr avail now. \$350.00 incl util \$22-9980 (h) 873-2545 (w). (42)

Newtonville: 2 L.F.s seek LF for housemate situation semi-coop, fireplace, yard, parking, half bath. No alcohol, drugs, smoking, \$350plus. Last month's rent. 965-0648. (42)

SUMMER RENTALS

GREAT P-TOWN CONDO

Beautiful, ocean-front studio condo available by the week in Provincetown. This sunny, private condo with deck is a perfect spot for couples. Reasonable rates — call (413) 586-4999, (413) 586-1572, or (413) 549-4136 for details. (44)

PROVINCETOWN BEACH POINT

Condo with loft, sleeps four, kitchen, parking, private patio, heated pool, cable TV, beach access. \$400 week, \$300 off-season. Call (508) 369-2872. (42)

APARTMENTS

JAMAICA PLAIN

Small 2 bedroom apt. Great view. Secure bldg. Close to Green St. T on Orange Line. Parking. W/D. Porches. \$750-plus util. 524-2401. Avail 6/1. (45)

JAMAICA PLAIN

Sunny 2 BR five minutes from Forest Hills T. Lesbian own/occ. One off-street parking space, W/D, yard, porches, wood stove. \$725/month includes heat. 522-5529, leave a message. Avail June 1. (43)

LYNN/SWAMPSCOTT

Sunny 4 room (1 BR) apt. Walk to beach, 2 blocks from train. Off street parking. Very nice area. \$700 includes all utilities. (508) 744-0959. (42)

Dorchester: Six room two bdrm first floor fresh paint, renov. kitch, bath. Washer hookup. Safe owner-occup. bldng. \$600 month plus utilities. 282-1196, eves. (42)

FOR SALE

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Super Deluxe Cotton Foam Models. One is a light colored hardwood frame with arms and a beautiful rust colored zippered cover with bolster pillows. Perfect for living room sofa bed or studio apartment. \$350. The other is unfinished pine frame that you may stain any color. Has an off-white protective cover. \$250.

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Contact Marie Stamos, Stamos & Stamos Realtors, 747 East Squantum Street, Squantum, MA 02171. 617/328-9400.

VACATIONS

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Spend long, lazy days by our pool, cool nights by a crackling fire or in our hot tub. 100 acre mountain setting with golf, tennis, hiking, antiquing nearby. HIGHLANDS INN, Box 118G, Bethlehem, NH, 03574. (603) 869-3978. Grace and Judi, Innkeepers. (17.8)

GCN SPECIALS

The GCN features dept. could really use someone to help keep track of the books for review, correspond with publishers, etc. About 3 hrs a week. We'll love you forever! Call Steph at GCN: (617) 426-4469.

TRANSCRIPTION

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

GCN has so many fascinating taped interviews!! But we can't transcribe 'em as fast as they get taped. If you can help out, even for a few hours, call Steph at (617) 426-4469.

DICTIONARIES NEEDED!

The average educational level of prisoners is junior high school (meaning that many haven't even finished elementary school). Both because they have "time" now and because they need to understand the pretentious "legalese" and other language of the system, they need dictionaries.

Please consider keeping an eye out for "deals" and picking up a few for us to send out. THANKS!

PUBLICATIONS

Mell Greene Art New Now Lists: Public \$25.00. Private \$125.00 Secret \$250.00 Picasso the Younger. P.O. Box 5272 Boston Mass 02114. Sets with color sculpture A-Ink. (44)

Do you need facts about menopause? Does the stereotyping of older women make you angry? Do you want to be part of an Older Feminists Network? *Broomstick*, a bimonthly national magazine by, for and about women over forty. Annual subs (US funds only) U.S. \$15, Canada \$20, Overseas and Institutions \$25. Sliding scale available. Sample copy \$3.50. 3543 18 St. #3, San Francisco, CA 94110.

BAD ATTITUDE

A lesbian sex magazine. Irreverent and Hot! \$12 for one year's subscription (3 issues). B.A. Inc., P.O. Box 110, Cambridge, MA 02139. (16.33)

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USA & CANADA \$10

NEW YORK/NEW JERSEY \$4.50; includes Manhattan bar notes & women's section.

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Renaissance House, Box 292GCN Village Station, NY, NY 10014 212-674-0120. All books discreetly by first class mail, your name kept strictly confidential. To list a business or organization, or for further information, send stamped, self-addressed business-size envelope. Please contact us for prices outside the USA. In Canada, order from Glad Day Books, 598 Yonge St., Toronto, Ontario M4Y 1Z3 416-961-4161 (check for prices)

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OFF OUR BACKS

Lively, down-to-earth feminism in the nation's oldest women's newsmagazine. Analysis, reviews, conference coverage, and news — on health, feminist theory, reproductive rights, civil rights and political work among working, disabled, incarcerated, old, and poor women, women of color, lesbians and women from every continent. \$15/11 issues. Trial sub: \$4/3 issues. oob, Dept. GCN, 2423 18th St., NW, Washington, DC 20009. (ex)

WOMEN'S REVIEW OF BOOKS

monthly review of current feminist writing. Since 1983. Our readers span the U.S., Canada, and abroad. Subscriptions: \$15/U.S., \$18/Canada, \$25/institutions. Free sample on request. THE WOMEN'S REVIEW, Wellesley Women's Research Center, Wellesley, MA 01881.

BLACK/OUT

Special 10th Anniv. edition of Black/Out now available. This bi/annual magazine from the National Coalition for Black Lesbians and Gays contains essays, reviews, poetry, news and announcements concerning the Black Lesbian and Gay community. Sample copy \$6 plus \$1 postage. 1 year subscription (2 issues) \$10 to \$12. NCBLG, 19641 West Seven Mile, Detroit, MI 48219. (ex)

OUTRAGEOUS WOMEN

A journal of woman-to-woman S/M. Fantasy, analysis, erotic art and much more. Sub: \$13/four issues. Single issues \$4. Must state you are over 18. SASE for info. P.O. Box 23 Somerville, MA 02143. (ex)

WOMEN OF POWER: "A Magazine of Feminism, Spirituality, and Politics," an inspiring international quarterly publication. Subscriptions \$22 for 4 issues; single issues \$6 plus \$1 postage. P.O. Box 827, Cambridge, MA 02238, telephone (617) 625-7885. (ex)

ON OUR BACKS

The sexual entertainment magazine for lesbians, is 48 pages of erotic fiction, features, plus timely sexual advice and news columns. We are quarterly, national, unique and provocative. \$15/yr. sub or \$5 current issue to: ON OUR BACKS, P.O. Box 421916, San Francisco, CA 94142. (ex)

PUBLICATIONS

LESBIAN CONTRADICTION

A Journal of Irreverent Feminism. Quarterly of commentary, analysis, reviews, cartoons & humor by and for women who agree to disagree—who are still political, but not necessarily correct. Sample \$1.50; sub. \$6; more if/less if. LesCon, 584 Castro, No. 236G, SF, CA 94114.

ORGANIZATIONS

OLDER LESBIAN ENERGY

Social and support group for women over 40. P.O. Box 1214, East Arlington, MA 02174. (15.48)

BLACK AND WHITE MEN TOGETHER

Multiracial group for all people. Call (415) 431-1976 or write BWMT, suite 140, 584 Castro St. SF, CA, 94114. (16.1)

BOSTON ALLIANCE OF GAY AND LESBIAN YOUTH

Social support group for youth 22 and under. Wed. night general meeting from 7:30-9pm. New persons meeting at 6:00. Women's meeting at 6:45. Call 523-7363 for info. (15.32)

MAN/BOY LOVE

Intergenerational Love Support Group. World wide news, art, opinions. Application, information free. Bulletin \$1.00 NAMBLA, P.O. Box 1923, St. Louis, Missouri, 63118. (7)

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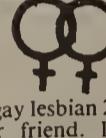
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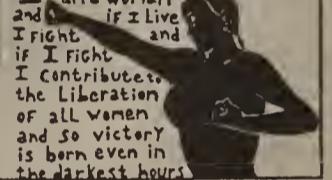
• LIC. and INS.

236-1848



Lonely black gay lesbian 25 yrs of age needing a companion or friend. I'm very easy going. Please write. Angela DAVIS, A498084-164, PO Box 8540, Pembroke Pines FL 33024.

Please place me on your penpal list. I can receive mail from other prisoners too. I'm 21, loveable Leo, weightlifter and poet. I like all kinds of sports and am a romantic stud. I love to hear from all races and ages. Rose TYLER, 480420, Rt 4 Box 800, Gatesville TX 76528



35 yr old gay man possessing a modicum of social graces and acceptable appearance desires to correspond with someone. My interests are wide ranging and include a predisposition towards the great outdoors and the remodeling of sundry elderly edifices popularly referred to as 'Victorian'. I love to read popular fiction and listen to serious piano music. Philip GILLESPIE, 67480, Unit 29-J, Parchman MS 38738.

HELP! lost and desperate TS, pre-op. Lonely, no one to write. I like music, soft rock and classical and to read and I WILL answer if you write! Thank you. 'Beth'. Roy CAGLE, 3



20 Saturday □ The Boston premiere of **Sticks, Stones, and Stereotypes**, a video documentary about homophobia and namecalling. (See review, p. 7). Benefit for the Gay/Lesbian Speakers Bureau. Tower Auditorium, Mass. College of Art, 621 Huntington Ave., Boston. 8pm. \$10/\$12. Wheelchair accessible. 354-0133.

Please note: Calendar listings must be received by the Monday before the week of the event. Photos are encouraged. Please specify if your event is or is not wheelchair accessible and/or sign language interpreted. Please use our format as a guide for your press releases and put each event on a separate sheet if possible.

13 Saturday

Cambridge □ **Fifth Conference on Bisexuality**. Harvard University. \$40. Childcare, ASL interpretation and scholarships available. Thru 5/14. For info call 247-6683.

Dorchester □ **Dorchester Int'l Women's Day Committee Fundraiser Brunch**, print sale and auction to support Ellen Shub's photographing the women's convoy to Central America. Bring trash and treasures to the Old South Church, 645 Boylston. 11-2pm.

Boston □ **Girth and Mirth** monthly social. At Hill House, 74 Joy Street on Beacon Hill. 8pm. Members \$4/non-members \$6. 846-8442.

Cambridge □ **Women, Money, and Social Responsibility**. The Boston Women's Fund sponsors a conference on socially responsible investment. Gloria Steinem keynote speaker. Cronkhite Graduate Center, Radcliffe College, 6 Ash St. 9-5pm. \$75/90 at door. 542-5955.

Boston □ **Edges: The Faces of AIDS** by Mary Good. Also, recent color photographs by Kevin Viens. On religious oppression, gay culture, and fashion. Bromfield Gallery, 90 South St. Thru May 27. 451-3605.

Northampton □ **Sheila's-A Woman To Woman S/M support group** meets to discuss "Worship." 413/584-7616.

Boston □ **Desert Hot**: dance benefit for the Fenway Community Health Center. Boston Center for the Arts, 539 Tremont St. \$12 advance/\$15 door. 267-7573.

14 Sunday

Cambridge □ **Men of All Colors Together** panel on interracial dating. Phillips Brooks House in Harvard Yard. All welcome. 1-5pm. 266-4378.

15 Monday

Boston □ **Fenway Gay Friends and Neighbors** Potluck. 7pm. Wayne, 353-1925.

16 Tuesday

Jamaica Plain □ **Lesbian/Gay Neighbors** get-together at Doyle's Cafe, Washington St. 327-5669.

17 Wednesday

Boston □ **Marge Piercy** benefit reading for Mass. Choice. African Meeting House, 46 Joy Street. 7:30pm. \$20 reading/\$50 includes reception. 720-1880.

18 Thursday

Boston □ **GCN Production Night**. All welcome. Proofreading starts at 8pm. Paste-up after 7pm. 62 Berkeley St., near Arlington & Back Bay T-stops. Info: GCN, 426-4469.

Boston □ **City Hall Coalition** discusses civil rights bill strategies. Piemonte Room, Boston City Hall. 7pm. 983-0815.

Brookline □ **Lesbian and Gay Pride Planning Committee** meeting. All welcome. 87 St. Mary's St. 7pm. 232-1716.

Boston □ **Children of the Left**. Documentary about Americans born in the '40s whose parents were/are members of the Communist Party. By Eric Stange. Museum of Fine Arts. 9pm. Part of New England Film & Video Festival.

19 Friday

Boston □ **GCN Mailing**. Come help stuff the paper and meet new friends. 5-10pm. 62 Berkeley St., near Arlington & Back Bay T-stops. Info: GCN, 426-4469.

Boston □ **Lesbian teachers/administrators** potluck. New group for support, socializing. 6:30pm. Info: 625-6364.

Boston □ **New work by Lesbian, Bisexual, Gay Artists**. Deadline for entries. Exhibit will coincide with Boston Pride week. Info: 437-7749.

Boston □ **Roommates**, a film about a long-term friendship between two women by Leila Streiff at 7:30pm. **Wild Women Don't Have the Blues** by Christine Dall at 9pm. Museum of Fine Arts, part of N.E. Film & Video Fest.

20 Saturday

Cambridge □ **Cheryl Wheeler** in concert. Bobbi Carmitchell opens the show. Paine Hall at Harvard U. 7:30pm. \$12.50/13.50 door. 661-1252.

Boston □ **Sticks, Stones and Stereotypes**. Boston premiere of documentary about name-calling and homophobia to benefit the Gay/Lesbian Speakers Bureau. Jim Vetter and Evi Seidman also perform. Mass College of Art Tower Auditorium, 621 Huntington Ave. 8pm. \$10/12.00 door. 354-0133.

Cambridge □ **Alliance of Mass. Asian Lesbians and Gay Men** and GAMIT co-sponsor Spring Moon Dance. Walker Memorial Hall, MIT. 9pm. \$4. All welcome. 499-9535.

Boston □ **Boston Prime Timers** monthly meeting. At Lindemann Health Center, 25 Stanford St. 2-4pm. 262-8685.

Keene, N.H. □ **AIDS Quilt** on display, Studio Theater, Keene State College. Free. Sponsored by Monadnock AIDS Project. 357-0979.

21 Sunday

Boston □ **Charley Shively** reads from **Drum Beats: Walt Whitman's Civil War Boy Lovers**. Glad Day Bookstore, 673 Boylston St. 6pm. 267-3010.

Jamaica Plain □ **Jamaica Plain Lesbian and Gay Neighbors** open house. Call Julie, 522-8768.

Jamaica Plain □ **Am Tikva** at the Arboretum. Meet at main gate at 1:30pm. Cancelled if rain. 782-8894.

Boston □ **Downtown Lesbian Neighbor Group** first anniversary dinner. Joan 266-5169.

Lowell □ **Gay in the Merrimack Valley** monthly potluck. First Grace Church, 225 Stedman. 6pm. 508/452-4686.

Jamaica Plain □ **Film/Video Party to benefit Astraea Foundation**. "Choosing Children," "Int'l Sweethearts of Rhythm," "Prescription for Change" plus previews of "The Audre Lorde Film," "A Question of Color," and "Desaparecidos." Sponsored by Nicole Hollander Affinity Group. 4-7pm. More info: 524-1793.

Brookline □ Poetry reading with **Rosario Morales, Grace Paley, Kate Rushin**. 99 High St. 7pm. Buffet supper at 6pm. \$25-50. Sponsored by Boston Committee of Women's Convoy to Central America. 436-8922.

24 Wednesday

Boston □ **Prison AIDS/HIV Task Force** meets. New members needed, especially people with medical, legal and/or educational experience who are willing to work on projects involving PWAs, PWARCs, and HIV positive people in Mass. prisons. AIDS Action Committee, 131 Clarendon St., Rm. 501. 6 pm. Info: Mike, 426-4469.

Boston □ **AIDS Awareness Panel**. Sponsored by Northeastern U. Speakers include Dr. Alvaro Ocampo, Denise Rouse, as well as two people with AIDS. Ell Center Ballroom. 7pm. 437-2004.

Boston □ **Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays** meets at GCN, 62 Berkeley, near Back Bay and Arlington T-stops. 6:30pm. Bi-weekly. Info: Carla, 524-3370.

28 Sunday

Boston □ **Memorial Mass for PWAs** who have died. Arlington St. Church. 351 Boylston St. 5:30pm. 227-5794.

Boston □ **Alliance of Mass. Asian Lesbians & Gay Men** discuss "Coming Together & Celebrating Our Heritage." Potluck. 80 Fenway, Apt. No. 51. 262-6670. Asian only.

Weekly events

Saturday

Boston □ **The Boston Area Rape Crisis Center** new training session for hotline. 617/492-RAPE.

Cambridge □ **SANCHIN Women's School of Karate and Self Defense** for women of all ages, abilities. YWCA, 7 Temple St. 3-5pm. T.-Th. 6-8pm. 547-3889.

Boston □ **Women's Self-Defense Collective** presents **Women's Self-Defense Classes**. All ages, abilities. Wed. eves., Sat. afternoons. 574-9433.

Boston □ **Body Electric**: Healing with group sensual massage for gay and bisexual men. 551 Tremont. 7:30pm. \$12. 522-9164.

Boston □ **Metro Healing** healing group for everyone. Metropolitan Health Club aerobics room, 209 Columbus Ave. 7:30-9:30pm. 426-9205.

Boston □ "Boston's Other Voice," radio for gay/lesbian community with Peter Stickel. 5/14, HIV infection among hemophiliacs. 5/21, Liz Page and discussion of safe sex. 11pm. WROR 98.5 FM.

Sunday

Boston □ **Boston Alliance of Gay and Lesbian Youth (BAGLY)**. Open to youth age 22 and under. 35 Bowdoin St. 2-5pm. 354-6658.

Boston □ **Metro Healing** healing group for everyone. Metropolitan Health Club aerobics room, 209 Columbus Ave. 7:30-9:30pm. 426-9205.

Boston □ "Boston's Other Voice," radio for gay/lesbian community with Peter Stickel. 5/14, HIV infection among hemophiliacs. 5/21, Liz Page and discussion of safe sex. 11pm. WROR 98.5 FM.

Monday

Boston □ **Healing Circle** group healing. 5 Upland Rd. 7:30-9:30pm. \$5 suggested. 864-1989.

Cambridge □ **Lesbian Rap**. 5/15, 5/M. 5/22, Lesbian theories. 5/29, Holiday. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 8-10pm. Free. 354-8807 (TTY/voice).

Cambridge □ **Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Rights** holds bi-weekly planning meeting. 142 Memorial Drive, room 306. 7pm. 776-6956.

Tuesday

Boston □ **Gay and Lesbian Support Group for Adult Children of Alcoholics**. Faulkner Hospital. 8:30-10pm. Intake interview required. 522-5800 x1908.

Boston □ **Lesbian and Gay Concert & Marching Band**. No audition necessary. YWCA, 120 Clarendon St. 7:15pm. Joe 625-3304, Zoe 396-2989.

Providence, RI □ **ACT-UP/Rhode Island** open meetings. Rocket, 73 Richmond St. 7pm. Bill, 782-9063.

Roxbury □ **ACT UP/Boston** meets to confront the AIDS crisis. Room 345, Bldg. 3, Roxbury Community College. 7pm. 49-ACT UP.

Cambridge □ **Bisexual Women's Rap**. 5/16, Coming Out Again. 5/23, Representations of Bisexuality. 5/30, Myth of bisexual promiscuity. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 7:30-10pm. 354-8807.

Cambridge □ **30-plus Lesbian Rap** 5/16, Lesbian Fashion. 5/23, Counteracting homophobia. 5/30, Picnic at Magazine Beach. 7-8:30pm. The Women's Center (see above).

Cambridge □ **Women For Sobriety**. A self help group for women recovering from addictions. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 8-9:30pm. 354-8807

Wednesday

Boston □ **Bisexual Children of Alcoholics**. Mass. General Hosp., lower amphitheater 7:30pm. 259-1559.

Boston □ New group forming for **Lesbians who have been sexually harassed at work**. Wed. or Th. 492-7273.

Cambridge □ "Say it, Sister!" WMBR, 88.1 FM. 7-8pm.

Boston □ **Women in the Building Trades**. Free introductory workshops for women interested in union job opportunities & apprenticeships. 241 Saint Botolph St. 6-8pm. 266-2338.

Cambridge □ **MASS ACT OUT** meeting. M.I.T., Building 66, Rm. 126. 7:30pm. 661-7737.

Thursday

Boston □ **Names Project Quilting Bee**. Bi-weekly through May. Arlington St. Church, corner of Arlington and Boylston Sts. 6pm. 451-9003.

Northampton □ **Valley Gay Alliance** meets 1st, 3rd Th. every month, basement of the Unitarian Church, 22 Main St. 7:30pm. 413/527-5310.

Stoneham □ **Incest Survivors' Group** for women. New England Memorial Hospital, 5 Woodland Rd. 5-6:30pm. Sara Epstein, 979-7025.

Boston □ **Boston Area Rape Crisis Center** drop-in group for women who have been raped. 492-RAPE.

Cambridge □ **Incest Survivors Group**. Women's Center (see above) 7:30-9:30.

Boston □ **Gay and Lesbian Pride Committee** meets first Thursday of every month. City Hall, room 801 at 7pm. 232-1716

Friday

Worcester □ AIDS Project-Worcester support group for HIV positive, PWAs, PWARCs, supporters. Open to all lesbians, gay men. 51 Jackson St. 7-9pm. Dana 508/755-3773.

Boston □ **Healing group** for everyone. Santa Fe Hair Salon, 528 Tremont St. 7:30-9:30pm. 426-9205.

Cambridge □ **Incest Survivors group on Death and Grief**. Short-term. Women's center (see above). 7pm.

Cambridge □ **Women's Coffeehouse**. 5/19, **Laura Wetzer** in concert. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 8-midnight. 354-8807.

CALENDAR COMPILED BY NAOMI STEIN

S.W.O.N.songs — A 1940s Homefront Cabaret. Written and directed by Ron Jenkins. With Kathy St. George, Bobbie Steinbach, Jodi Capeless, Kathryn Woods, and Sally Schwager. At the Charlestown Working Theater, Charlestown, Mass. Through May 21.

By Pam Mitchell

It was one of those gorgeous spring days that New England isn't noted for, so my friend and I were mournful when it came time for the matinee of *S.W.O.N.songs* to begin. We tore ourselves away from our spot in the sun in the Sullivan Square community gardens and went next door to the converted fire station that houses the Charlestown Working Theater. In contrast to the airy, chandeliered ambiance of the theaters down on Tremont Street, the environment at this low-budget community theater could charitably be called minimalist; under the circumstances, we felt like we were crawling into a cave. So embittered was I by this sacrifice of life to art that I was already composing a nasty review in my head before we even sat down in our uncomfortable little wooden chairs, joining a meager audience of other theatergoers who unaccountably preferred cave life to tulips and the smell of new grass.

But now, after laughing and crying and singing along with the unforgettable cast of five "SWONs" (Shipbuilding Women of the Navy), I can't seem to remember any of the mean things I was going to say about them. Pretty days may come and go, but a play that mixes good fun with good politics, that fills the stage with butchettes of various sizes and colors — each in overalls, handy with heavy machinery, and heavy into female bonding — that, to mix a metaphor, is something that sticks to your ribs.

How often, after all, do we get to see a stage handed over to a bunch of working-class women who bring along their lived-in faces, round bellies, and to-the-point tale-telling styles? When do I ever get to review something that's set in a women's workplace, with all that goes with the territory: the bonding against the boss, the giddiness under pressure, the capacity to turn tedium into art so we don't go crazy? Where else am I going to watch three women in coveralls



Shipbuilding women in *SWONsongs* (L-R): Bobbie Steinbach, Kathy St. George, Jodi Capeless, Sally Schwager and Kathryn Woods

hanging out having a blast with these very likable folks from the neighborhood — characters based on actual oral histories of women veterans of the Charlestown Navy Shipyard a few blocks away. Meanwhile, he's slipping in a running commentary on local history and popular culture of the '40s (aided by still photos from the era projected on a screen on stage, by reenacted radio broadcasts, and by tunes, tunes, tunes). And, most importantly, he's showing how the victory of "our boys" overseas got turned into a bum deal for women and African Americans on the homefront. Though this is not the most polished production in the world, its flaws — occasional flubbed lines, some awkward set movements, one embarrassingly weak singing voice and a couple that are merely adequate — almost seem to contribute to its engaging informality and accessibility.

Just like in real life, there's a scene-stealer in every crowd: in this case, actress Kathryn Woods stands out both for her wonderfully bluesy vocals and for her ability to breathe life into the overwritten role of Ethel. As the play's one Black character, Ethel, a domestic worker turned welder, is called upon single-handedly to embody a cynical attitude toward pop culture, a healthy disregard for domesticity, a perspective on class and race, a feminist analysis, a clairvoyance about what's in store for all of them when the boys come home, and an indefatigable ability to keep up everyone else's morale. I'd like to assume the playwright meant this character to be a commentary on the white fantasy of the Strong Black Woman rather than yet another unconscious embodiment of that fantasy, but I'm not altogether convinced.

In general, though, despite my "don't say anything if you can't say anything critical" approach to review-writing, I have to admit that I rather thoroughly enjoyed myself. *SWONsongs* may not be a transcendent piece of Theater-with-a-capital-T. But it does provide ample good cheer and humor at no one's expense. At the same time it gives voice to that generation of independent and capable women who were forced back into unpaid kitchen duty and underpaid typing pools after proving to themselves that they could do and be so much more. □

Where else can you watch three women in coveralls singing 'If I Were the Queen of the Shipyard?'

The unforgettable S.W.O.N.songs is based on oral histories of women veterans of the Navy

and "safety shoes" dancing around on scaffolding and singing "The Forklift with the Fringe on Top" and "If I Were the Queen of the Shipyard"? (To stave off boredom, the women on the line rewrite the lyrics of the pop tunes of the time — who among us

hasn't done the same?)

These women are — to borrow a friend of mine's ultimate compliment — really *regular*: a bunch of hometown girls entertaining themselves. Writer/director Ron Jenkins has us convinced that what we're doing is

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Dear Friend,

Thank you for your support and interest in our new club for women. As in all businesses, the first weeks are the most difficult. Step one was the initial opening and a lot of time and energy was invested in making that happen. It is now time for us to refocus.

It has been brought to our attention that some find the name "Secrets" offensive. Please understand, it was not our intention to portray lesbianism as something that should remain hidden. Our thought was that a secret could be a positive and exciting thing. Think, if you would, about an unsigned Valentine or a well wrapped present — both are secrets. It was with these feelings in mind that our original decision was made. However, in response to your views, we have officially changed the name to INDIGO — A Club for Women. We sincerely regret any negative impressions or feelings the name "Secrets" may have inspired.

Allow us now to clear up the issue of when INDIGO is open. Currently our hours are Thursday, 8PM-2AM (admission \$3); Friday, 4PM-2AM (admission \$5) and Saturday, 9PM-2AM (admission \$5/lower level only). We will also be open on Sundays before a Monday holiday (next is Memorial Day, May 28, 8PM-2AM). Beginning in June, our hours will also include Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 8PM-1AM. And come July, Thursday and Saturday nights will be multi-leveled with Fridays occupying the lower level only.

Live entertainment has been arranged for May including: JESS LEARY, WENDY SOBEL & SALLY KROWN on Saturday, May 13 at 7:30PM. Tickets are \$7 for the show or \$9 for show/dancing. Comic LEA DeLARIA (of Dos Lesbos fame) will be performing on Thursday, May 17 at 7:30PM. Tickets are \$6 (show only) and \$8 (show/dancing). And don't forget, on Saturday, June 10 (Gay Pride Day), INDIGO will offer a buffet and dancing from 12NOON-2AM.

Our display of women's art, on the lower level, will continue and special events are in the works including: a fashion show, a body building contest, an AIDS Action benefit and our version of The Gong Show. We are also putting together a light menu and an extended list of non-alcoholic beverages. Also, look for regularly scheduled entertainment coming soon on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

We hope this letter has helped answer your questions and concerns. A suggestion box has been installed in the club because we want to hear from you. Again, thank you for your interest and support.

Sincerely,
INDIGO — A Club for Women